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WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD241618 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

["International Observers Roundtable" program, with Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer; Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, international affairs journalist; and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, all-union radio commentator]

[Text] [Levin] Hello, esteemed comrade listeners. One of the most important events in international life this week was the speech that Leonid Ilich Brezhnev made to voters of the Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug in the city of Moscow.

Brezhnev Speech, Socialist Unity

The speech gave an in-depth analysis of the contemporary international situation. It laid bare the reasons for the negative phenomena which are currently to be noted on the international arena. It showed their essence. The main thing the international public is noticing is that this speech once again vividly and convincingly confirmed the steadfastness of the Leninist foreign policy course of our party and our state. It stressed the desire of the CPSU and of the Soviet state to wage the struggle for the deepening of detente and the consolidation of peace.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev noted that one of the decisive factors, a factor of paramount maganitude in this struggle, is the cohesion of the socialist states, the community of the socialist countries.

[Shishlin] Yes, as far as the effect of this factor on the international arena is concerned, it is not merely the result of theoretical calculations but the result of the great practical experience which has been amassed by the countries of the socialist community in the postwar years. In the final analysis, the seventies--which were marked by the development of the process of detente--owe the birth of detente, in considerable degree, to the active position of the socialist countries and to their stand for the consolidation of international security. The formula for the unity of the socialist countries, like any political formula, is a generalized reflection of reality. It unfolds in the quite specific active positions of the socialist countries on all key problems of contemporary international life. This unity and coordination of action are achieved and arise not only because of the homogeneous nature of the set-up which exists in the countries of socialism but also as a result of practical steps, the actions of the multifaceted mechanisms for the coordination of the foreign policy of the countries of socialism, which are making themselves felt quite clearly and distinctly in the present months and the present weeks, which have been marked by a certain burst of international tension.

What I have in mind here are both systematic contacts at the highest political level, including contacts at the foreign ministry level. As our comrades know, the other day there were consultations in our country, as it happens, between Comrade Gromyko, USSR foreign minister, and Comrade Fischer, GDR foreign minister. This is precisely the practical work which insures the linking of the foreign policy interests of the socialist states and the socialist states' advance to the aims which were so clearly charted in Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's election speech.

[Levin] The policy pursued by the countries of the socialist community, their joint struggle for detente and the attenuation of the threat of a world nuclear missile war, have become one of the fundamental factors in international life. It is also very important to note that in this policy the socialist countries enjoy the backing of the broadest circles of the public.

The strength of our foreign policy lies in the fact that it accords with the vital interests both of the countries of socialism and in general the vast majority of the population of the earth.

[Shishlin] Just so. But it is also unquestionably true to say that the unity of the socialist countries is important now more than ever, although I realize that it is a somewhat worn formula. But the fact remains that an exacerbation of international tension is quite a serious matter. It is not for nothing that the following phrase: counteroffensive against detente by the forces of imperialism, and above all American, is used by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

[Bovin] I would say that perhaps Leonid Ilich devoted most of his attention in the speech to an analysis of the reasons which produced this counteroffensive against detente--an analysis of the forces behind the counteroffensive and who have succeeded in complicating the present international situation considerably. To speak in specific terms, during the past year--the past year and perhaps a little more--this period was typified by increased activity by that wing of the bourgeoisie--above all American--which stands opposed to detente.

This was manifested in a whole series of specific political actions. First, there was the fuss over SALT II--first the delay in drawing up the treaty, then in its ratification. Then they foisted an extended arms program on NATO and in the end got NATO to take the decision to deploy new American nuclear weapons in Europe. It was also manifested in the fact that the Americans put the deep freeze on a whole number of specific talks on disarmament. Recently, using Afghanistan as a pretext, they have kicked up an hysterical hue and cry and are attempting to intensify their military presence in central Asia [srednyaya Aziya] and in the Near East.

It was on this point that Leonid Ilich expressed what in my view is a significant idea: What looks like--or at least what the Americans would like to present as--a policy directed above all against the Soviet Union's interests, in actual fact this policy is aimed against the interests of the world at large--against the interests of all forces, all states that have an interest in preserving the fruits of detente. I daresay it is not only we who understand this now, this danger in American policy, this certain recklessness, as I would call it, in Washington's speeches, statements and deeds. Even America's allies are beginning to realize and do realize this in a fair degree.

Vance Trip

Here is a specific example: Just this week, as is widely known, Vance made a lightning tour of the countries of West Europe in an attempt to coordinate Washington's policy with the policy of West Europe and somehow to eliminate, so to speak, the impression that the Americans do not consult them sufficiently, that the Americans are moving too far and too fast. What the Americans themselves are writing about Vance's visit is interesting. I'll quote just two reports, one from the Washington POST and one from the New York TIMES. Here, for instance, is what the Washington POST writes: The outward cordiality which marked Vance's meeting with the West German leaders could not conceal the confusion and uncertainty with which West Europeans view current American policy toward the Soviet Union. The author of the article goes on to say that by contrast with the United States, West Europe is inclined to stress not confrontation or even restraint, but attempts to find, by means of talks, the basis for the resumption of detente between East and West. There is also an article in the New York TIMES, in which a correspondent, quoting an official in the American delegation--the Vance delegation--writes as follows: The Americans were to a certain degree surprised by the disparity in thinking which exists on a number of issues between them and the Germans.

This disparity is no coincidence. It is no coincidence and it shows that the truly hysterical reaction to the events in Afghanistan, the excessive stress on all these problems of confrontation and conflict which Carter is currently coming out with--all this evokes legitimate misgivings among the allies in West Europe, and indeed not in West Europe alone.

[Shishlin] Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, probably, nevertheless, the history of Vance's consultations was in actual fact a little bit more involved than that. You probably recall that at first the Americans announced that on 20 February there would be a multilateral meeting in West Germany of the leading--or to put it more aptly--of representatives of the leading capitalist states....

[Levin--interrupting] Of five countries!

[Shishlin] A statement from Paris that the French would not take part was a great affront. Similarly, a statement from Bonn to the effect that the FRG was ready for bilateral consultations with the United States but that a multilateral meeting would be inappropriate and would not aid in stabilizing the international situation was also a disappointment. So what this undoubtedly means is that given the real state of affairs and given the true facts behind Vance's trip--all this means that the European countries are beginning to look more and more frequently to see just where following in America's wake will lead them.

Afghan Situation

[Bovin] All the more so, in that this course is in general, well, to a fair degree, contradictory. The contradictions are simply glaring. Well really, on the one hand the Americans are stating that they would like us to withdraw our troops from Afghanistan but on the other they are doing everything they can to make this withdrawal difficult. This is because the military aid to Pakistan, the arming of Afghan rebels and all this commotion on the border with Afghanistan naturally all do not in the least facilitate a withdrawal of our troops. On the contrary, they aggravate the situation and prolong their presence there.

Take another similar paradox--the Persian Gulf. As Leonid Ilich said in his speech, on the one hand they are disturbed about the stability of the situation in the Persian Gulf--and this is understandable because it affects their interests connected with oil--and on the other hand they are, by intensifying their military presence and their political pressure there, destabilizing the situation in general. America's allies are also alarmed and fear a possible dramatic turn of events, because, perhaps, Europe and Japan, as is well known, depend to an even greater extent that the United States on Near East oil.

[Levin] I would like to return for a moment to the question of American interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, since this issue is indeed of fundamental importance. I shall now cite a few facts. Only a few days ago the Indian press agency reported that there are 50 bases in Pakistani territory where American and Chinese advisers are training counterrevolutionary bands for dispatch into Afghanistan so that these bands can try to put obstacles in the way of the development of a new life.

[Bovin] Indeed, bands which are attempting to kill people and burn villages and hamlets. It is more than just obstacles!

[Levin] Bands who are attempting to overthrow the revolution. Yes, this is counterrevolution in a pure form. One also needs to add that at the present time the White House is playing host to a certain Zia Nasiri, who they are trying to present as the leaders of the Afghan, as it is being put, liberation--this is being said in the United States--the liberation forces.

Incidentally, he is a very curious personality. He comes from a rich Afghan family. He studied and worked in the United States and even has American citizenship. Zia Nasiri recently worked in New York in the field of police investigation. Now it is he--here one does not need to argue for long that it is precisely by the grace of Washington--who is being put forward as the ringleader of all these counterrevolutionary bands. Zia Nasiri is already starting to relish this and is asking Washington for supplies of weapons worth $40 million for a start.

Incidentally, supplies of weapons to Afghan counterrevolutionaries have already been reported by the American press. This has been written of by the New York TIMES and by the Washington POST. That is to say that these facts are quite evident.

In this connection I would like to draw attention to the fact that India is giving a clear-cut appraisal to these facts.

Indria Gandhi recently gave an interview to PAESE SERA; answering a question about the causes of the exacerbation of the situation in central Asia, Indira Gandhi said that one must name the strengthening of the military base on Diego Garcia as a prime cause. Speaking in parliament the leader of the Indian Government spoke of the fact that India is watching with concern the buildup of military potential in the Indian Ocean and in certain other countries. This buildup is taking place at a faster pace now that Pakistan is becoming one of the important bases for such actions.

Here you can see that even a very close neighbor and a very large country of the Hindustani Subcontinent is providing a fairly clear assessment of the development of events. This shows again and again that the Afghan events are a pretext for Washington--a pretext which has been invented to justify its aggressive actions and moreover a pretext for a broadening of American expansion in Asia as a whole.

U.S. Power Politics

[Shishlin] I would even go so far as to say that this campaign of words and the campaign of action represents a definite strategy on the part of the United States. It is perhaps creating some sort of screen--probably by Washington's calculations a fairly dense one--to conceal the mode of action which the United States is now using in different areas of the world.

Not long ago Carter addressed the American Legion. Indeed, it seems that not a day passes without him addressing some or other audeince! This time he spoke in particular of what he described as one of the achievements of his administration, of the fact that after 14 years of talks historic documents, to use his expression, had been concluded concerning the Panama Canal--and this is how he characterized these documents--which will guard American interests, insure the further responsible operation of the canal, permit us to guard this canal now and in the remote future and to strengthen our influence in a strategically important area of our hemisphere.

[Bovin] This is the usual American approach to all problems. Whatever they may say, in the final analysis all is reduced to nothing more than American interests and American influence.

[Levin] The Americans do of course have their definite aims, and it is perfectly obvious that their principal goal is to create a network of military bases in the Indian Ocean, in the countries of the Near and Middle East and in the countries of Africa. We have discussed repeatedly in our program the U.S. attempts to obtain bases in Oman, Kenya and Somalia.

Here is a recent event. It has been announced that a group of 1,800 marines is being dispatched for maneuvers in the Arabian Sea in mid-March. One's attention is attracted to a statement by U.S. Defense Secretary Brown--or more correctly a statement in the New York TIMES which carries a summary of an order by Defense Secretary Brown--whereby the quick reaction force will become functional on 1 March. In other words, this quick reaction force will soon emerge from the realm of general talk as an established fact.

[Bovin] There is in this connection a particularly significant detail. When we speak about these bases that the Americans are seeking, it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that the state of world public opinion is now such that they will not obtain any bases in the usual meaning of this word--that is, American military installations with American personnel--in a single one of those countries. That is perfectly obvious. For this reason a modification of policy is presently taking place. It is not a question of their own bases--a classical example of which would be, for example, those bases which they still retain in the Philippines--but it is a question of military installations belonging to these countries themselves--for instance, Somalia, Oman or Saudi Arabia--which they want to receive permission to use for their requirements and for some particular specific occasions. This change is very important and it clearly reveals those great and positive shifts in public opinion which are hampering the Americans from carrying out this aggressive policy of theirs.

It seems to me that it is also very important and significant to stress that all this commotion, in the final event, is arousing a negative attitude even in those countries which the Americans want to defend. Recently the Kuwaiti foreign minister made a speech in which he said: Why are they causing such a commotion and what do they want so badly to defend? Everything is normal in the Persian Gulf. We will deal with this ourselves.

[Shishlin] I would also say that in general these bases are, after all, the instrument of policy, wouldn't you say, rather than the objectives.

[Bovin] Of course.

[Shishlin] The objectives they set are rather different and basically geopolitical in nature. The three of us here have talked on several occasions about these objectives and also about the instruments by which these objectives are achieved. We have talked in particular about Rhodesia. The black electorate is going to the polls there on 28-29 February. Yet the situation in Rhodesia in general couldn't look worse. There are 6,000 South African troops there and there are also South Africans in the regular Rhodesian forces. There are 250,000 refugees from Rhodesia.

[Levin] From the African population.

[Shishlin] From the African population. These are in actual fact not being let in. They would have voted for the Patriotic Front representatives. This means the black voters will be coming in with their hands tied as things really stand. Lord Soames is even trying to bar a lot of them from casting their votes, simply saying that the situation is unstable in those areas, so that the elections have to be called off there.

Reaction to Losing Positions

These are the sort of maneuvers which are being carried out, yet these maneuvers cannot halt the principal direction of the development of events and cannot halt the national liberation struggle of the peoples. This is also one of the very important characteristic features of the contemporary development of the international situation.

This development of the national liberation struggle has attained such a scale that the imperialists--first and foremost the imperialists of the United States--are afraid, are frightened of losing their last positions. This intensifies their aggression.

[Bovin] This is one of the main reasons for the increase in the level of activity on the part of the most aggressive circles of the American bourgeoisie...

[Shishlin--interrupting] Of course.

[Bovin]...At present, because the sources of the U.S. raw material supplies are at risk first and foremost, not only oil, but the whole spectrum of the most important minerals. They are very afraid of this. Hence the increased activity of the hawks and the increased activity of the militarists so that in some way they can guarantee these supplies--and guarantee them not only via political pressure but also via their military presence. Incidentally we already know of some such cases.

[Shishlin] You know, the relationship here is typical. This can be seen if one just tries to bring to mind--one probably couldn't remember them all--those forums held by UN bodies to discuss north-south problems, or, to put it more precisely, the problems of the developing and the developed countries. During the past 2 years not a single one of these forums has been crowned with even the slightest degree of success, not the slightest. They were a complete failure. A complete flop. The question of establishing a new international economic order is completely blocked by imperialism. This is also a symptom, since we have here a certain heightening of the struggle that has been engendered by a specific world economic situation. The way the West customarily talks in these circumstances--it really is clutching onto the things it is used to holding in its hands and which it just simply doesn't want to lose.

[Bovin] Yes, here we really have what I would call the deep-down economic behind-the-scenes reasons for this counteroffensive against detente.

[Shishlin] Yes, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev distinctly said in his speech that the bellicose circles of imperialism, and U.S. imperialism primarily, find the strengthening of peace and the successes of the liberation struggle of the peoples not to their taste. They have responded to the development of the mutually advantageous contacts which the socialist countries have with many capitalist countries, to the success of the all-European conference in Helsinki, to the victory of the revolutionary peoples of Angola and Ethiopia over the interventionists and mercenaries of imperialism by dragging out the SALT II negotiations and then dragging out the ratification of that treaty. They encouraged the treachery of as-Sadat in splitting the front of Arab unity against the aggressor. They foisted on the NATO countries a long-term program of forced armament. They froze and in many cases broke off the talks which had been going on over disarmament problems. Finally they have adopted the provocative decision to deploy new American missiles in West Europe targeted on the USSR and its allies.

The American newspaper New York DAILY NEWS reported the other day that the Pentagon is already hatching plans not only for a resumption of neutron arms but for equipping these same Pershing II and Tomahawk missiles which they have foisted on West Europe with neutron warheads. This of course cannot but evoke an appropriate attitude on the part of the peoples in the West European countries. They are beginning to understand the real state of events better, and incidentally the reaction by West Europe to American pressure--which we have already referred to today--reflects that complexity of emotions aroused in West Europeans by American policy.

[Bovin] Well, yes. In this they also find themselves midway between Scoylla and Charybdis, because on the one hand they do objectively have this alliance, solidarity, as they say, and they cannot get away from it, and on the other hand they feel that this solidarity has got them in to such a chasm that they will find it hard to get out of it again. So they are compelled to maneuver about and look for some way of extricating themselves from the situation which has developed.

[Levin] I should like to draw our listeners' attention to one further point. When we speak of the aggravation of international tension, especially in the area of the Near and Middle East, one should bear in mind that the blame for this aggravation lies not only with the United States. Last Friday, Indira Gandhi, addressing a meeting in some small town, drew the attention of the public in her country to the danger of external aggression, primarily on the part of China. Chinese policy is very clearly manifested in inflaming counterrevolutionary actions in Afghanistan. There are known cases where Chinese military advisers have headed counterrevolutionary gangs. There are known cases of Chinese experts training Afghan counterrevolutionaries, not only in the Pakistan bases but in Xinjiang as well. This policy of the Beijing leaders--a policy which links up with the policy of American imperialism in this specific region, in this specific situation--cannot of course but cause not only China's neighbors but other countries as well to be wary.

Optimism on Detente

[Bovin] It appears to me that perhaps we have said enough about today. But what will tomorrow be like? This is of course a question which really worries everybody. On the basis of this question I would draw the attention of those of you who are listening to us, comrades, to the key of Leonid Ilich's speech, to that confidence, to the optism, to the composure, to the understanding that in general we will continue the fight for detente. We are confident that he will be successful in breaking through this latest zigzag in the development of the international situation which we are currently experiencing. This, of course, is relevant to the question of tomorrow.

[Shishlin] Actually, I would put it this way. Leonid Ilich's speech contains, together with its other important elements, a proposal to continue with the dialog, including dialog with those forces who today have found themselves captive to or in the power of extremely shortsighted calculations to the effect that the course of objective processes can be broken through and that they can attempt to some way, by means of some sort of political and nonpolitical thrusts, to gain military supremacy over socialism. But the continuation of the dialog and the very proposal for dialog are extremely interesting in this respect; for this proposal does not run counter to the interests of those countries and the peoples of those countries to which the proposal is addressed. This is why it has a good chance.

[Bovin] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stressed in his speech that on one can frighten the Soviet Union. Our strength and capacities are enormous. We and our allies will alwyas prove able to stand up for ourselves and administer a rebuff to any hostile attacks. No one will manage to provoke us. We will oppose the doctrine of military hysteria and the feverish arms race, Comrade Brezhnev stressed, with the doctrine of consistent struggle for peace and security on earth. We are true to the peace program put forward by the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses. For that reason now, in the 1980's, as earlier in the 1970's, we stand for strengthening, not for destroying detente; for reducing, not for boosting armaments; for rapprochement and mutual understanding between peoples, not for artificial alienation and enmity.

[Levin] You couldn't have put it better, as they say. Thank you for your attention, respected listeners, and all the best.

ALLEGED CIA AGENT ARRESTED IN AFGHANISTAN

CIA Involvement in Situation

LD241649 Moscow TASS in English 1629 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 24, TASS--A spokesman for the security service of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan said to a TASS correspondent that among arrested persons involved in the instigation to anti-government actions there is a U.S. citizen, agent of the Central Intelligence Agency Robert Lee. He admitted that this is his third visit to Afghanistan. All his visits to this country coincide, as it was found out here, with the aggravation of the situation both in Kabul and in the provinces bordering on Pakistan. In his words, American officials in Peshawar, as well as other American "instructors", take part in the training of counter-revolutionary agents who are then smuggled into the territory of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. These ill-famed "protectors" of the Afghan people supply weapons and ammunition, bandits and criminals, Robert Lee had nothing to do but admit the facts of the involvement of American special services in the current developments in Kabul.

Sixteen Pakistani citizens are among those arrested, the security service spokesman stressed. They distributed leaflets using texts which had been tape recorded and printed in the training centres on the territory of Pakistan. According to the arrested persons, they infiltrated into Kabul from Pakistan in small groups, bringing along big sums of money in different currencies which they received from overseas masters and their accomplices in Pakistan.

The DRA security bodies, backed by the population, succeeded in rendering harmless a group of counterrevolutionaries who maintained links with their masters based on the Pakistani territory. This group had at its disposal a West German radio station, and its members were armed with American-made pistols. The group "informed" the masters on events in Kabul and simultaneously received instructions on further instigatory actions. The security service spokesman said that investigation continues and the arrested persons will shortly tell local and foreign journalists about their subversive activities.

State Department 'Dodge'

LD242126 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2030 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] According to an AFP report from Washington, the U.S. State Department has refused to comment on the arrest of the Afghan authorities in Kabul of U.S. citizen Robert Lee. This agent of the U.S. CIA was taken into custody along with other subversive elements--foreigners involved in inciting antigovernment actions in the Afghan capital. A State Department spokesman tried to assert that this man's name and surname are not on the list of Americans presently in Afghanistan.

Such a clumsy ruse is exposed by a Washington POST report. This points out that Robert Lee is a U.S. citizen in Kabul in the guise of a teacher allegedly looking for work. According to the paper, there are 60 U.S. citizens in Kabul who are private citizens, not counting 20 employees of the U.S. Embassy.

The Washington POST's evidence is supplemented by information from Kabul. This states that CIA agent Robert Lee admitted that he was making his third visit to Afghanistan. And in addition, as it turned out, all his arrivals in this country coincide with a tense situation, both in Kabul itself and in the provinces bordering on Pakistan. After he was seized, Robert Lee was forced to relate how the U.S. special services are engaged in subversive activity against Afghanistan. It is not surprising that the U.S. State Department now has to dodge about and lie in public.

ACTIONS AGAINST AFGHANISTAN STILL UNSUCCESSFUL

ID232044 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 23 Feb 80 LD

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Igor Charikov]

[Text] Judging by radio and press reports, aggressive circles of the United States are continuing their undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It may even be said that they are expanding this war, giving support to those antipopular elements which are aspiring to turn the young independent republic from the path chosen by it. In this connection, U.S. authorities are attempting as far as possible to conceal carefully the truth concerning U.S. participation in this war and cover over more completely the tracks leading, as is well known, to Washington. At the microphone is Vladimir Gerasichev, our New York correspondent. Over to you Vladimir Aleksandrovich:

[Gerasichev] New facts concerning the covert interference of the United States into the internal affairs of Afghanistan have become known here recently. Not even the U.S. press has been able to hushup facts concerning the subversive activity of the Central Intelligence Agency against the legal government of Afghanistan. Reports have leaked into the papers about how for many months CIA agents have equipped and continue to equip the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands with arms, send these bands into Afghanistan and direct their activities from the territory of Pakistan.

[Charikov] At the same time, the White House is constantly aspiring to expand the scale of its aggressive actions and bring its allies into this war.

[Gerasichev] Quite correct. And it should be said that this has not turned out to be a simple task for the United States. So far, the U.S. reaction and counterrevolution, dreaming, if you please, of putting an end to the young Afghan republic, has only been joined openly by Beijing and Cairo, who are literally bending over backwards in order to merit the financial and military aid from the White House.

[Charikov] However, all indications are that the United States is not succeeding in expanding, so to speak, the geography of the support for the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

[Gerasichev] Yes. Not even the distinctly provocative demarches by some representatives of the U.S. administration, who during a trip to Pakistan attempted to indicate to their allies the direction in which they were to fire, have been of any help. West European NATO allies of the United States are displaying particular caution today in their assessment of events surrounding Afghanistan. They are trying to dissociate themselves from the policy of adventures and provocations which their partner across the ocean is pursuing. The third day of talks between Secretary of State Vance and West European NATO allies showed that the United States will hardly succeed in imposing upon them its own approach to the problem of Afghanistan. One of those State Department officials accompanying Vance stated that the Americans are literally amazed at how far different the views of the West Europeans are from their own. This is not surprising if one takes into account the fact that Vance is in fact attempting to prove to the leaders of the West European states that they do not need the relaxation of international tension; that they so not need mutually beneficial trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union; that they must take part in Washington's undeclared war against Afghanistan and refuse to take part in the Olympic games in Moscow, while the West European countries are convinced to the contrary. The fact that not nearly all the actions of the U.S. administration directed toward exacerbating the threat of nuclear war are meeting with support from their NATO allies had to be admitted by Secretary of State Vance himself.

PUBLIC BEING FED 'MISINFORMATION' ON AFGHANISTAN

ID240258 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 23 Feb 80 ID

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] No so long ago while in Chicago, I visited the place where the famous stockyards used to stand. My American colleague who was showing me around told me this story: The cattle to be slaughtered was herded into a large yard where a specially trained bull was also driven in. That bull led the animals into the slaughterhouse. The bull meanwhile sneaked out through a side corridor to meet another herd and to deliver it to the butcher. Yet people are not a docile herd.

I shall pull no punches and tell you frankly that what is happening in the United States, specifically the election campaign now in full swing, makes a strange impression on a casual onlooker. The point is that real issues of vital significance to millions of Americans are put on the backburner. If only a few months ago such problems were in the limelight as the soaring cost of living, inflation, lackluster economic outlook, mass unemployment with ever more idle workers in the future. Also problems like energy and the environment. Now one cannot escape the impression that the overriding issue for millions of rank and file Americans is: Afghanistan. I believe even a short time ago many Americans knew nothing about that country at all. And even today I am not sure that most of them would be able to answer a question what Afghanistan is and where it lies. I am not sure many Americans would be able to locate it on the geographical map right away.

The sensitive reaction from a segment of the United States public opinion to the Afghan events creates the impression that at least some people are convinced that Afghanistan is somewhere near America and what is happening in that country poses a direct threat to the national security of the United States. I don't think that by far all people, I mean those credulous of Washington's propaganda escapades coming thick and fast, have been informed that Afghanistan, that small, mountainous country, is not only thousands of miles away from the United States but also very close to the Soviet Union, in fact bordering with our country in the south and situated near our vital centers.

Americans are being told the actions of the Soviet Union, which it had taken at the request of the Afghan Government to repel outside aggression, are a threat to the United States, specifically because the Soviet Union's alleged aim is to cut off the routes linking America with the Mideast oil. Many Americans apparently take all these assertions at their face value. All the same, let's suppose for a minute that the Soviet Union had set that objective--though frankly an unrealistic and dangerous objective--then any unprejudiced person, on taking a hard second look at the map and at Afghanistan's location, would notice there were all too few highways and railroads in that ragged mountain terrain. So the impassable mountains of Afghanistan would make him look another way and suppose there were better routes of reaching the Persian Gulf. Consequently those who are out to hoodwink public opinion in America are more than resorting to the method of big lie by spreading innuendoes about Moscow's aggressive intentions. They likewise reckon on a certain degree of ignorance in matters of geography and geopolitics.

The recent history of the United States furnishes us a good example when ill-meaning people in Washington not only succeeded in hoodwinking the broadest segments of the American public, they even managed to mislead many at the Capitol Hill. Well meaning perhaps but a bit too gullible. What I'm referring to is the ill-famed Tonkin resolution. And in the same way as it is today those who stand to gain from munitions industry profits whipped up a political hysteria which set the stage for the American aggression in Vietnam that claimed thousands of American lives and turned into one of the most ignominious military and political defeats in American history.

Now, supposing the American public were in the know about all the facts then in August 1964 instead of the rigged information it was fed, information on the basis of which the Senate sanctioned the orders from the White House to send the United States Army, Navy and Air Force thousands of miles overseas, would the American public accept Washington's moves which led to the dirty war in Vietnam? The answer is obvious beyond the shadow of doubt. It was given in multiple ways in the years when all upright Americans rose up against the adventure in Vietnam and demanded its immediate stop. At that time the American press cited numerous facts on how Americans were duped because they had no credible information concerning the real situation on the Indochina Peninsula, how they fell for intimidation and brainwashing, a campaign organized on a vast scale. All this gave the organizers of aggression against the people of Vietnam and Kampuchea a free hand.

Now I'd like to ask my audience this question: Does no one in America now stop and think that the same thing is happening again? That again millions of Americans are being presented [word indistinct] misinformation which has nothing to do with the real state of affairs just for the sake of the selfish interests of certain quarters--be it higher profits from the munitions industry or the transient considerations of the election campaign? I don't doubt in the least that in time all those who are not apt to take misinformation with a grain of salt will be in for shame and disappointment the way it was about the Vietnam war. That great American, Abraham Lincoln, said on one occasion you can fool some of the people all the time, you can fool all the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time. And those in Washington who again resort to the big lie methods for their selfish ends would project no better image in American history than those who were responsible for the Vietnam catastrophe.

I am firmly convinced that the people who planned in advance the misinformation campaign and are now hoodwinking the American and world public are well aware of the fact that the myth about Moscow's plans to capture the warm seas and cut America off from the gusher of the Mideast oil is downright lie of the first water. They know all too well that the Soviet Union had no other alternative but to send a limited Soviet troop contingent to Afghanistan at the request of its government and that the contingent will be there temporarily. Otherwise the Soviet Union's southern border would have witnessed a tragedy similar to that in Chile and a situation might have arisen with a real threat to real interests of the Soviet Union's security, a threat on its southern border.

There is a very simple way of testing Moscow's good will and that is to stop the support for the anti-Afghan forces committing aggression against the Afghan people. In this case the Soviet Union, as President Leonid Brezhnev has assured, would return the Soviet soldiers home without delay. The latest events show however this is what some hotheads in Washington want least of all. Zbigniew Brzezinski, who brandished a Tommygun before reporters on the Pakistan-Afghan border, trekked to Pakistan not with an aim of seeing for himself if there were aggression against Afghanistan from the Pakistani territory, but to negotiate on the whole house's behalf new arms deliveries to the gangs intruding the territory of a sovereign state.

Doesn't this confirm the fact which compelled the Soviet Union to give assistance to Afghanistan in line with the Soviet-Afghan treaty? There is no doubt however the perilous road being pursued by Washington will offer no solution to the international security issue or to the real problems that the United States now confronts at home. The propaganda mist will blow over sooner or later but the hard reality will remain. The earlier the Americans will ponder over the situation, the sooner they will discern another lie to which they have fallen a victim. In this case both America and the other nations will stand to gain, who are interested in their security not in military adventures. [sentence as heard]

MARINES IN PHILIPPINES TO BE DEPLOYED TO GULF AREA

LD251007 Moscow TASS in English 0922 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Manila, February 25, TASS--The Pentagon continues building up tensions in the Persian Gulf area trying to influence the Near and Middle East developments by demonstrating its naval might.

As spokesmen for the U.S. naval force in the Philippines declared, the 1,800 man strong American U.S. Marines units recently lifted here from the United States, completed last preparations for a dispatch to the Persian Gulf area. The American cut-throats specialising in acts of sabotage and terrorism, are, as commander of the 31st landing group, said, ready after seven-day exercises in Green Beach at a distance of 60 km northwest of Manila for "offensive operations" jointly with airforce and naval units.

The U.S. Marines will be brought to the Persian Gulf area by mid-March on board four naval transport ships. They will join a big American group threatening the security of countries in that region.

PAPER HITS CARTER 'POSITION OF STRENGTH' POLICIES

LD221115 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 17 February 1980 front-pages under the rubric "Publicist's Reflections" and the headline "Dialog in Language of Friendship" a 2,000-word article by Anatoliy Sofronov. Having described his friendly relations with West Germans studying the Russian language Sofronov states that the Soviet people have never dismissed all Germans as fascists and that similarly "today we say it is not the Americans but U.S. imperialist circles who are the threat to peace." He goes on to state:

"The more you look into years gone by the better you see in retrospect the designs and plans of those who would like to bury detente. The previous Washington administration already tried to remove the word 'detente' from the vocabulary of world politics. J. Carter began with fierce attacks on the way of life of that country, without peace with which there can be no peace on earth. People on the Rhine and the Seine are now asking: 'Well, what else is the U.S. President contemplatingthere?' Numerous military threats, the 'Euromissiles' decision, the 5-year arms race program and finally the aggressive actions against Nicaragua, Iran, Afghanistan and Cuba, the construction of new bases in the Middle East promises to the Chinese militarists to arm them against us--that is now Washington's policy.

"J. Carter's course is the same course already familiar to us, the 'position of strength' course, the course of 'permanent brinkmanship.' It is a senseless course condemned by the peoples. And events show that the West European countries and peoples of the world are by no means inclined to follow this course and march unthinkingly in the U.S. wake, that they are by no means inclined to believe the fables disseminated by Washington regarding the Soviet Union's 'aggressiveness.' The potential for trusting U.S. policy declines as its aggressiveness increases--you can feel that today in Europe. And from the meetings and talks I have made I can judge that the European peoples are fully determined to uphold detente. It has served and will continue to serve the vital needs and goals of mankind."

Sofronov describes some of these meetings and talks and goes on to give an account of a journey through Afghanistan 30 years ago when he saw the graves of Afghans who had died fighting the British and noticed U.S. economic influence in the country. He continues:

"Of course in 1919 the British did not have the military might which the entire imperialist front now possesses, beginning with this front's ringleader, the United States. And, of course, the Khyber Pass is not now a serious obstacle to the imperialists' penetration into Afghanistan. Military technology has grown immeasurably over these decades and there is no need to guess how the U.S., British and other neocolonialists could penetrate into the now free Afghan Republic. That is why we find ridiculous all this abuse directed at the Soviet Union which came to the aid of free Afghanistan and cut off opportunities for intervention, opportunities to penetrate from any side in order to bring millions and millions of people to their knees again in this part of the world.

"We Soviet people cannot fail to be alarmed at the United States' resumption of its military aid to Pakistan, at its desire to make it, in Iran's place, the gendarme of this region, or at its plans to plunge Afghanistan into endless bloodshed. We cannot be indifferent to the dangerous fuss around our southern borders. I remember the cemetery on the Afghan-Pakistani border near the Khyber Pass--people fought here, defending their independence. Today the Afghans have many friends in the world, and their position is different from before. And although Pakistan, through U.S. and Chinese efforts, is becoming a bridgehead for aggression against the states of central and southern Asia, some people should remember that such bridgeheads have been created before but could not prevent the growth of the national liberation movement."

Finally Sofronov says that "when we think of our time, of days when the relaxation of tension is threatened, we think of peace" and, he says, of our friends in other countries.

OBSERVER SATIRIZES U.S. VITAL INTERESTS

LD240538 Moscow TASS in English 0505 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

["'Vital Interests of the United States'--What Are They?"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--The American press now writes much about the "vital interests of the United States". It must be noted, for that matter, that it is not quite clear where these interests start and where they end. TASS observer Viktor Zatsepin tries to explain this problem in his topical satire. He writes:

I was recently told in confidence in the circles close to the White House why the Americans do not want to go away from Japan. "The land of the rising sun", a lean gentleman confidentially told me, is within the sphere of "American national interests."

As you known, he explained, the famous Mount Fuji stands not far from the Japanese capital. No other country has such a beautiful mountain attracting so much attention of foreign, espeically American tourists. Even the U.S.A. does not have one. Can Great America do without such a unique symbol of eternal beauty?

Mount Fuji, the gentleman went on to say, is not the only object, in which we have a vital stake. There are others. And not only in Japan, but, let us say, in the Middle East.

True, some people say that we have no right to declare that a resion of sphere of our "vital interests". But it is an oil producing region. And the whole world knows that we, Americans, cannot do without cars! We spend more than 10 million barrels of oil a day. This is twenty times as much as Iran, but does that mean that we must walk?

No, we must defend our vital interests in the Old World just as we do in the New World.

Take Chile, for example. We need copper, in which that country is rich. The U.S. company with the sonorous name Anaconda purchases copper mines from our friend Pinochet, and, note, that it has only to carry out the raw material, for the extraction of which the Chilean miners are paid a pittance of a wage. As a result, Anaconda gets good profit, the USA gets its copper and Pinochet is glad.

Many Americans like the avocado fruit having an inimitable taste. We are proud that we could ensure with the American Standard Fruit the supplies of this priceless produce for many decades now from Honduras, where the vital interests of the USA are defended by people placed in power by us.

Believe me, it was no easy job for us to achieve these results.

I must admit that in recent years the humane policy of the United States in that region meets with ever less understanding. But we act there with what we call an "iron hand". When the regime of our friends in the Dominican Republic began to stagger in 1965 we immediately sent for assistance to them our glorious marines. True, however much we tried, we have failed to save the friends of Yankees Somoza in Nicaragua, but people from the Duvalier clan have been in power in Haiti with our aid for twenty years now.

We are accused of hob-nobbing with dictators. We will not pretend that this is not so. But we do that also for the sake of defending the country's vital interests. So that American should timely and regularly get avocado, bananas, pineapples, copper and, of course, oil. The world must realise that we list among "vitally important areas" for the security of the United States all areas rich in fuel and precious ores, and this is right!

You ask what will the above named countries do when we empty all raw materials from their natural store-houses. This is their own business! "Everyone dies alone".

COMMENTATOR CALLS CARTER 'BRAZEN HYPOCRITE'

LD242322 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Viktor Bogoslovskiy commentary]

[Excerpts] One must point out that President Carter did not come up with anything new when he claimed that the United States was a definder of the Arab and Islamic world. For in May 1948 President Truman inaugurated a new mosque in Washington and at the same time he warmly congratulated the Zionist leaders who took over power in the State of Israel, which had been established at that time in the Middle East. And when the U.S. Marines landed in Lebanon in 1958, President Eisenhower spoke of the desire to protect the Lebanese Muslims. Before that, that is in 1953, the United States, amid much talk about defending Islam, mounted an antirevolutionary coup in Iran and removed, as U.S. newspapers said then, the unbeliever Mosaddeq. It helped to keep in power the bloody dictatorship of the shah for another quarter of a century.

The facts show that President Carter, in trying to portray himself as the defender of Islam, is a hypocrite pure and simple. He also tries to deceive the Muslims.

In fact, one can prove that he is a brazen hypocrite; for he claims to be a defender of Islam at a time when he is abominably trampling on the rights of Muslims and holding their holy shrines in contempt.

Carter and Brzezinski claim to be the defenders of the Muslims, but U.S. warships in the Arabian Gulf are pointing the turrets of their cannons against the people of Iran and threaten them with bloody intervention. The Pentagon is trying to turn Saudi Arabia, where Mecca and Medina are situated, into a U.S. military base. What about the ugly crimes which are committed against the Muslim people of Afghanistan with the help of the two U.S. saints?

A short while ago the British newspaper DAILY MAIL correspondent Morris visited Afghan areas where mercenaries who are armed by the Pentagon and trained by U.S. advisers are sent. There he talked to a group of Muslim religious leaders who told him indignantly and angrily that those who call them fighters are killing old people, women and children. The religious leaders said that these people are not Mujahidin but villains and highway bandits who are trying to hide behind the slogans of defending Islam.

However, the brazen hypocricy of the U.S. officials toward Islamic nations is not only exposed by their crimes committed against the right of these peoples with the help of the bayonets. Is it not a crime that the U.S. monopolies should plunder the resources of the Islamic nations? But this is what we will be talking about in our next talk.

CARTER WANTS TO MAINTAIN TENSION FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

ID221609 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Soldatov "Letter From New York": "Who Stands To Gain From This?"]

[Text] The behavior of American politicians is shaped to a large extent by the saying: Don't do what I do, do what I say. Quite suddenly an exception has been made to this rule: saying what is being done. It has long been known that the United States is supplying the Afghan rebels with weapons. Their leaders have spoken openly about this and local politicians have alluded to such "aid". The State Department did not deny these facts, although it refused to confirm them.

Now the American supplies of weapons are talked of quite openly. It turns out that the Special Coordinating Committee under the National Security Council headed by Z. Brzezinski adopted a decision in mid-January on supplying the rebels with "light weapons". The decision was approved by President Carter. The CIA is carrying it out. The questions which involuntarily arise are: Why did the White House need to advertise its impudence? Who stands to gain from this?

By now it is clear that the administration made use of the events in Afghanistan as a pretext to justify its policy of an arms buildup by referring to "Soviet aggression". The steps taken by the administration were aimed at creating an artificial international crisis and unleashing an anti-Soviet campaign. Fueling tension has also become part and parcel of personal ambitions: Under American conditions artificial crises increase the President's chances at forthcoming elections.

When the first fit of chauvinism had passed and people, at least a few, could calmly look around, doubts started up about where the policy of the present administration might lead the country. Readers are pondering this in letters to newspaper and magazine editors' offices and people whose opinion is respected are speaking about it publicly. Such was the case with a press article and subsequent television appearance by former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union George Kennan.

"People who consoled themselves that at least Carter is not a militarist are now not so sure," the correspondent E. Goodman writes in the Washington POST.

Having acutely complicated Soviet-American relations and heightened international tension to a dangerous level, J. Carter has put much at stake, including his prestige. If world tension decreases, this will mean that the contender for a second term has appraised the situation incorrectly and misled the public. At election meetings candidates E. Kennedy and J. Anderson are criticizing J. Carter's foreign policy. So all the indications are that the White House has decided to disregard the criticism and do everything to maintain the tension, which allows it to avoid discussion of acute domestic problems.

Overt statements about supplies of weapons to the Afghan rebels provide the very opportunity to maintain tension. The better armed the gangs are, the more harm they will be able to wreak and the louder the American press can conduct their anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet campaign. Washington wants to complicate the situation by other means too. They have long been trying here to provoke a "reaction" from Muslim countries to the events in Afghanistan. Highly placed administration officials frequently say they are friends of the Muslims and are concerned above all for their well-being. They are doing everything here to make the developing countries forget what U.S. policy aims in the Near East are and what led to the revolution in Iran.

The White House is trying by various methods to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. One method is the creation of certain "international" military formations allegedly to "replace the Russians in Afghanistan". President Carter announced this at a press conference "without a trace of a smile," as one newspaper ironically noted. It is reported that Washington is conducting "preliminary talks with certain countries" on this question.

Acts of provocation, as is known, have never achieved any good. They are particularly dangerous in the nuclear age.

KORIONOV: STUDENTS, PEOPLE OPPOSE CARTER'S POLICIES

LD251201 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[Vitaliy Korionov article "Americans Are Content With Everything"]

[Text] During the U.S. presidential election campaigns more and more frequently such "turns" are staged that even people well acquainted with the political mores of American political life are amazed. Such a performance took place recently in the East Hall of the White House, the New York TIMES noted when President Carter met American student leaders.

The speaker tried at any price to impress upon his young electors that the fruits of the activity of his administration were above praise. To prove it he has forced to adduce "arguments" each more amazing then the last.

"Literally all the actions we undertake, the President asserted, are calculated to strengthen peace..." Before the eyes of the listeners there probably floated real pictures, for example, the concentration of the American naval squadron whose iron fist is raised over the Near and Middle East, or a diagram of the war budget, which is shooting sharply upward.

"Our country is not guilty of anything, Carter went on to declare. I have undertaken no actions which could put our country in an awkward position and for which we should have to apologize." Hearing this, the listeners obviously asked themselves: What about the Iranians, who have just the opposite opinion about this? But will Washington take into account such a "trifle" as the opinion of a 35-million-strong people?

But the most unexpected "discovery" was made by the speaker when he undertook to formulate the "main characteristic of the Americans." In our country, the President declared, "are 200 million Americans who are content with everything."

Nobody in the East Hall clapped. Not surprisingly.

On the eve of this speech a demonstration of Indian representatives (it is well known that out of 10 million Indians in the country less than 1 million remain) took place outside the U.S. Congress building, protesting angrily against the authorities continuing a real war against the native Americans, carrying out ever more cruel repressions. Shortly before the President's speech, Robert McNeil, one of the largest real estate corporations in the United States, published a report which stated: About 34 million Americans live in apartments and houses which do not meet the minimum demands for living conditions.

At almost the same time, the magazine U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, describing the sweatshop [potogonnyy] system which flourishes in the United States wrote: "The exhausting and cruel labor conditions recently discovered by federal officials recall the early days of the industrial revolution."

A short time ago the New York TIMES published the results of a poll it had conducted which made it clear that while at the end of 1977, 40 percent of those asked declared their confidence in the government and its policy, at present, only 29 percent of Americans support the government. And this is not surprising, since, as the paper writes: "In the streets of New York alone there are thousands of wandering, homeless people who have lost all hope and their number grows continuously." The master of the White House pretends that nothing of this exists in the United States but millions of Americans are of a different opinion. In fact, in its own way this even appeared at the meeting we are discussing.

The fact is, the administration recently declared its intention to implement yet another militaristic measure: to carry out the registration of young people of draft age, extending this to women and girls. Before their meeting with Carter, Brzezinski tried to convince the student leaders of the necessity of these measures. But his eloquence was in vain. The students stated that they were against registration. The New York TIMES wrote: Brzezinski asked those participants in the meeting who approved of a volunteer army and not a draft, to raise their hands, and "practically all raised their hands."

When the President himself tried to convince his listeners of the necessity of the new militaristic plan, student (Russ Lamp) of Wayne University said: "Our educational institution is against the registration and the draft." This statement was supported by applause from the 250 participants in the meeting.

Of course, what happened at the meeting was only a minor episode. But it is characteristic. Millions of Americans are watching ever more closely where the authorities are taking their country, and they have every reason to do so.

OHIRA, MANSFIELD DISCUSS RELATIONS, INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS

LD212010 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 21, TASS--The Japanese Government is yielding more and more to the pressure of the American administration which demands that it take a more active part in Washington's adventurous strategy. This is evidenced, in particular, from the results of today's meeting between Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Mansfield. In the course of the meeting, which concentrated on questions of Japanese-American relations and the international situation, the prime minister assured the ambassador of Japan's readiness to beef up its armed forces. Assurances of the loyalty to the allied commitment were also lavishly expressed by Kichizo Hosoda, head of Japan's Defence Agency, during a meeting today with Lieutenant General Ginn, commander of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan.

Kichizo Hosoda said that Japan regards "with understanding" Washington's intention to assign the functions of protecting strategic sea lanes in the Pacific to Japan's "self defence forces". He admitted that to perform these functions a further increase of military spendings will be required.

The Japanese Government is giving a free hand to the American military in using the territory of its country for the transhipment of the so-called "quick reaction forces" to the "hot spots" of the planet, and is following in the wake of American imperialism. The broad public circles resolutely condemn this policy which has nothing in common with Japan's national interests and striving of the Japanese people for peace and security.

DOLGIKH-LED CPSU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN JAPAN FOR CP CONGRESS

LD240940 Moscow TASS in English 0919 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 24, TASS--A CPSU delegation consisting of Vladimir Dolgikh (the head of the delegation), secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and I. Kovalenko, head of a sector of the International Department of the CPSU CC, arrived in Tokyo today to attend the 15th Congress of the Communist Party of Japan (CPJ).

At Tokyo's Narita International Airport, the Soviet delegation were met by H. Tachiki, member of the Presidium of the CPJ CC, head of the International Department of the CPJ CC, and by other representatives of the Communist Party of Japan.

KOREAN SOCIALIST YOUTH DELEGATION VISITS SOVIET UNION

SK250622 Moscow in Korean to Korea 1130 GMT 22 Feb 80 SK

[Text] The delegation of the League of the Socialist Working Youth [LSWY] of Korea led by Comrade Kim Chang-yong, vice chairman of the LSWY Central Committee, paid a visit to the USSR from 16 to 20 February. Comrade Pastukhov, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Komsomol, received the LSWY delegation of Korea.

The delegation held talks with Comrade Guseynov, secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Komsomol, in the office of the Youth Organization Commission of the Soviet Union. At this meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, they exchanged opinions on future cooperation between the All-Union Komsomol and the LSWY of Korea and on the urgent questions of the international youth movement.

AFGHAN GOVERNMENT 'INTRODUCES' MARTIAL LAW IN KABUL

LD221654 Moscow TASS in English 1642 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Delhi, February 22, TASS--U.S. imperialism and its flunkeys continue stepping up interference in the internal affairs of the sovereign Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, using Pakistan's territory as a place d'armes for the armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

As it became known here, Saudi Arabia decided to provide for the Pakistani military regime of General Ziaul Haq "aid" amounting to 700 million dollars for the purchases of armaments by Pakistan and for financing military gangs that are sent into the territory of Afghanistan. Thousands of mercenaries undergo training in the territory of Pakistan under the supervision of U.S., Chinese and Egyptian instructors. 20 special bases and over 50 strongpoints have been created for the purpose.

Kabul, February 22, TASS--Radio Kabul today broadcast an official statement of the Ministry of the Interior of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The statement says that in the morning of February 22, foreign agents and mercenaries, British, U.S., Pakistani and Chinese placemen resorted to open instigatory and subversive actions in Kabul, trying to disrupt tranquility in the city. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in the interests of observing democratic norms was striving to prevent these incendiary actions. But venal mercenaries, encroaching on the national interests of the country, resorted openly to plundering and arson.

For the purposes of ensuring security of life and protection of the property of the population of Kabul, the Ministry of the Interior of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan deemed it necessary to introduce the martial law in the city and to take the most resolute measures against those guilty of the crimes. The curfew must be strictly observed. All persons holding arms without special permit are obliged to relinquish them in the district precincts of the militia within 24 hours. Persons who violate the martial law will immediately be arraigned before a military-revolutionary tribunal.

The statement of the Ministry of the Interior stresses that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan fully controls the situation and is capable of opposing any provocations and aggressive actions. Those who threaten peace, the statement says, must realize that they will no longer be able to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of Kabul.

Moscow Dari Report

TA221640 Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan 1530 GMT 22 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Afghanistan Radio broadcast today the official statement of the Ministry of the Interior of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in which it is stated that around the morning of 22 February, foreign agents and mercenaries and British, American, Pakistani and Chinese lackeys took part in open provocative and subversive acts in Kabul, and attempted to undermine the peace of this city.

In order to observe democratic principles, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan attempted to prevent these provocative acts. However, the mercenaries who have sold themselves and enroached upon the country's national interests openly engaged in plunder and burning.

In order to maintain the security of the lives and to defend the property of the inhabitants of Kabul, the Ministry of the Interior of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has found it necessary to declare martial law in this city and will take the most resolute measures against those who are (?guilty) of crimes. Curfew has been imposed in the city of Kabul and all individuals possessing arms without a special permit are required to deliver them within 24 hours to the [word indistinct] branches in their districts. Individuals who violate the law of the martial administration will be immediately summoned to a revolutionary military court. The statement of the Ministry of the Interior indicates that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has the situation completely under its control and is able to confront any provocations and aggressions. It is pointed out in the aforementioned statements: Those who (?threaten) peace should know that they will not succeed in undermining the increased peaceful life of Kabul's inhabitants.

OFFICIAL AFGHAN STATEMENT WARNS AGAINST 'ENCROACHMENTS'

ID222100 Moscow TASS in English 2044 GMT 22 Feb 80 ID

[Text] Kabul, February 22, TASS--A statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was published here. Addressing the people of Afghanistan, all peoples, national and progressive forces of the world, all states, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan exposes the aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism which in alliance with British imperialism and Chinese chauvinism, using the reactionary forces of Pakistan and bases in its territory, as well as its Israeli allies is waging an undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the statement says.

Armed groups of mercenaries are being sent into Kabul. Large-scale sabotage and wholesale murders of peaceful people are staged. According to the latest data, agents of the Central Intelligence Agency of the USA, Pakistani saboteurs and spies, together with their armed henchmen-murderers were arrested in the hotels Jamil, Metropol, Pak and Nishtal and in other areas of the city.

The spies were arrested having on them arms, documents, photographs and large sums of money in the U.S., Pakistani, West German and British currencies. Among them are Pakistanis Shir Ahmad and Sadr Ali and American Robert Lee, who had earlier, too, penetrated Afghanistan with assignments of spying and provocative actions. They will all face a revolutionary tribunal.

The heroic people, government, security forces and Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as all national progressive and patriotic forces, having rallied in a broad national front under the guidance of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan will continue the struggle against any interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, will be upholding its independence, sovereignty and territory integrity.

We are firmly convinced that the great April national and democratic, anti-reactionary and anti-imperialist revolution will resolutely bring to the ultimate victory the cause of the liberation of the Afghan people, the cause of the struggle against U.S. and British imperialism striving for world supremacy, against Pakistani reaction, Chinese chauvinism and their henchmen. The forces of imperialism and reaction will bear the responsibility for all the consequences of the unjust aggressive war against people's Afghanistan, the document says.

Why is it that the enemies of Afghanistan go along the road of aggression, subversive actions against heroic and revolutionary Afghanistan, against the gains of the April revolution, interfere in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan? They do this for the reason that the rallied People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have frustrated the plans of the CIA and its allies, specifically the gang of Amin, have proclaimed peace and freedom, democracy and progress, justice and humaneness, brotherhood and equality for the people of our motherland, Afghanistan, have strengthened the foundations of unity of the party, people and armed forces all over the country and consolidated the gains of the April revolution.

The statement stresses that any encroachments on Afghanistan's sovereignty will be duly rebuffed. We warn reactionaries of all stripe that revolutionary Afghanistan is not alone, that it has on its side all progressive forces of the world, upholding the cause of peace, freedom, democracy and progress.

CORRESPONDENTS CITE CAPTURED 'SPIES' ON KABUL 'PROVOCATION'

LD231154 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1047 GMT 23 Feb 80 LD

["Provocation by the Counterrevolution"--TASS headline]

[Text] Kabul, 23 February, TASS--Special TASS correspondents Leonid Ponomarev and Ravil Musin report:

Yesterday, patriotic forces of the Afghan capital, officers and men of the Kabul garrison and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] Security Service foiled a plot by the CIA and other imperialist special services which had intended to perpetrate a bloody pogrom in Kabul. Arming mercenary groups of terrorists, made up of criminals sent in from Pakistan, the ringleaders of reaction hoped to catch the Government of the DRA and the working people of the capital unaware. However, the enemies of the Afghan revolution miscalculated. The population of Kabul was not frightened by the intimidation and threats from the bandits and decisively came out in defense of the April revolution, rallying round the DRA Government and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The officers and men of the Kabul garrison demonstrated courage, tenacity and revolutionary vigilance in protecting the peaceful citizens of the capital from the outrages of the hired bandits and provocateurs. The present provocation by imperialist forces in Kabul was planned by the CIA.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 23 February 1980 adds the following: "The present provocation by imperialist forces in Kabul is not a spontaneous matter, as the CIA leadership would like to present it if one is to judge from its instructions to American, Pakistani and other agents who had made their way in advance into Kabul".]

This was confirmed by a group of provocateurs and spies who were arrested by the organs of the DRA Security Service and by Afghan patriots. The initial questioning showed that the Kabul operation had been carefully prepared long in advance. Provoking disorders in the capital and provinces, disrupting the spring fieldwork and causing food supply difficulties were the objectives set out by Washington and its Pakistani and Beijing accomplices.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 23 February 1980 adds the following: "Official White House spokesmen had openly hinted in their statements on 21 February--the beginning of the first month in spring according to the Afghan calendar--as the beginning of a new stage in whipping up anti-Afghan hysteria, provoking disorders in the capital and provinces, disrupting the spring fieldwork and dooming the Afghan people to starvation were the objectives set out in Washington by official circles and their Pakistani and Beijing accomplices."]

Who are these people the imperialists are counting on today in Afghanistan? In the center of Kabul, opposite the largest department store, security men detained a number of Pakistani citizens while they were plundering the store with Afghan looters. Journalists are being shown a group of marauders, murderers and bandits who were arrested at the scene of the crime, equipped with weapons of American and Chinese manufacture. We have before us 16 agents trained by American instructors in special camps on the territory of Pakistan.

Along with Pakistani passports, two of them also had Pakistani newspapers with portraits of the arrested men. Under the photographs was the caption: "Being Sought by the Police as Dangerous Criminals." In their pockets were weapons and the items they had managed to steal during the pogroms of the shops--precious stones, watches and even razor blades. They seized everything that came to hand which was left after the other looters. In one of the shops they broke a boy's skull because he was trying to defend his father.

Small trader Mohammad Ibrahim told the TASS correspondents that on the eve of the events two unknown persons had entered his shop threatening him with weapons. They made him close the shop. These people were not from Kabul and their weapons were American-made. He said: In the morning I opened my shop and hundreds of Afghans, pleased with this, came in to buy provisions. However, later the same two strangers burst into the shop, poured kerosine into it and set fire to it.

The Afghan people, he said, are indignant over the actions of the terrorists who are intimidating the population. Today we welcome the decision of the country's leadership which has taken the necessary measures to bring order to the town.

Patriotically minded young Afghani people, formed into units, are bringing to the commandant's offices more and more bandits caught at the scene of the crime. Some of these have powerful radio transmitters, lists of names and nicknames of the heads of terrorist groups, codes and money.

The DRA Government and the revolutionary units are undertaking energetic measures to isolate and render harmless the provocateurs and inciters. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 23 February 1980 adds the following: "Honest citizens and Afghan patriots are speaking on television and radio angrily denouncing the provocations and schemes of the imperialists against the Afghan people."]

AFGHAN OFFICIAL SAYS EVENTS IN KABUL PROVE CONSPIRACY

LD251314 Moscow TASS in English 1242 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 25, TASS--The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has transmitted a statement by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan resolutely condemning U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonists, reactionary regimes of Pakistan, Egypt and their servitors.

The statement points out that after the start of the new stage of the April revolution, the forces of imperialism and reaction acting in alliance with the Chinese hegemonists, began hatching sinister plans against free and independent Afghanistan. American and Chinese instructors and Israeli "military specialists" are training in Pakistan's territory bandits and terrorists, using as a cover the slogan of the necessity of urgent defence of "Sacred Islam".

The role of defenders of Islam, the statement points out, has been assumed by traitors to the interests of the Arab people, which, counter to the opinion of the Moslem countries, concluded a separate anti-Arab Camp David deal with direct participation of U.S. imperialism.

Using Islam with their selfish aims, the rulers of Pakistan, Egypt and some other Moslem countries convened a conference in Islamabad with the aim of posing themselves once again for zealous allies of imperialism, chauvinism and Zionism and distracting world public attention from U.S. conspiracies in the region and providing a cover for the treacherous Egyptian-Israeli deal.

The statement stresses that the recent events in Kabul have been an indisputable evidence of a broad conspiracy of world imperialism and reaction--these sworn enemies of Afghanistan's Moslems--against the party, state and revolution in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Zionist Israel, this friend of As-Sadat, the statement points out, made homeless and exterminated thousands of Arab Moslems, in particular of Palestinians. Where were then today's "defenders" of Islam and why did they not defend Islam and Moslems?

The United States and its accomplices, especially Pakistan, would be well-advised to understand that the working people of Afghanistan following the traditions of its glorious ancestors will defend to the end under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan their country's independence, territorial integrity and honour, the document stresses.

'PATRIOTIC' FORCES FOIL IMPERIALIST PLOT IN AFGHANISTAN

LD240653 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Patriotic forces of Afghanistan have foiled a plot by imperialist secret services who were planning to perpetrate a bloody pogrom in Kabul. Agent-provocateurs and spies who have been arrested testified that the plan had been prepared carefully a long time ago. Journalists were presented to a group of sixteen agents who were trained by American instructors in camps on Pakistani territory. They were armed with American and Chinese weapons. The agents were carrying radio transmitters, inflamatory leaflets, money and cipher books.

SITUATION IN KABUL REPORTED 'RETURNING TO NORMAL'

LD251416 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Unattributed dispatch from Kabul]

[Text] The situation in the Afghan capital is returning to normal. Stores have reopened and most government institutions are functioning. The authorities are in full control of the city. Life goes on as usual. According to reports, the situation has also stabilized in most of the provinces.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1600 GMT on 24 February 1980 broadcasts the following: "Today Kabul began its usual, working life. Shops and stalls are opening. Many main ministries and departments commenced normal activities. The radio and television, as well as the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY, did not stop working. According to the reports coming in from the fieldwork continue to be implemented. The capital's revolutionary patriotic forces continue to manitain vigilance and are ready to defend the gains of Afghanistan's working people, to rebuff new possible sorties of internal and external reaction."]

The Afghan Government has quashed the latest conspiracy organised with the support of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States and Pakistan, China and a number of other countries. The provocation was carefully planned. For several weeks gangs sent in from outside tried to stir up major disturbances in various Afghan communities along the frontier with Pakistan but Kabul was chosen as the main center of action.

Local observers point out that on the 21st, just before the disturbances started, the Voice of America began talking about shooting and clashes in Kabul. The gangs appeared on the streets of the capital that night, shooting at the windows of homes and setting fire to cars and gasoline pumps. The gangsters threatened store owners with quick punishment if they failed to close their shops. They also tried to seize the bakery, hoping thereby to create a bread shortage and provoke the people of Kabul to demonstrate against the government. But few people supported the gangs and the Kabul garrison, people's militia and revolutionary youth detachments acted vigorously to end the trouble. Most of the gangsters have been put out of action.

Among the ringleaders taken prisoner is a United States citizen and CIA agent, Robert Lee, who has appeared in Afghanistan three times and always when the situation noticeably worsened. Sixteen Pakistani nationals were caught in the act of committing crimes with gunfire. The subversive gangs had a radio intelligence center at Hotel Park and were using it to keep Pakistan informed about the course of operations. This was put out of action.

The forces supporting the Afghan Government seized 200 and some [as heard] submachine guns, rifles and revolvers, all of them American, British, Chinese or Pakistani make--and also portable transmitters and large sums of money in dollars and pounds.

When questioned the American citizen and CIA agent, Robert Lee, admitted the involvement of United States special services in the events in Kabul.

Just last week President Brezhnev said that Washington had full knowledge of the intervention in Afghanistan from the territory of Pakistan since the United States itself, along with China and certain other countries, was directing this serious threat to the Afghan revolution.

KARMAL ATTENDS SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION IN KABUL

LD221310 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Receptions were held in USSR embassies in the capitals of various countries on the occasion of Soviet Army and Navy Day.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan attended the reception in Kabul.

AFGHANISTAN'S DEFENSE MINISTER PRAISES SOVIET ARMY

LD251200 Moscow TASS in English 1126 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 25, TASS--Defence Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan M. Rafia spoke on Kabul radio and television on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. He stressed that "the Soviet Army not only heroically defended its land, the gains of the Great October Revolution from reaction and imperialism, but also dealt a fatal blow to the aggressor--German Nazism, has become a guarantor of peace, democracy, freedom and social progress all over the world". "The Soviet Army, the minister said, is an army of peace." All progressive forces of the world regard it to be a liberator army standing on guard of peace all over the world.

The minister also pointed out that the limited contingent of Soviet troops is staying in Afghanistan following the repeated requests of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to ensure security in the region, the country's independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty. M. Rafia gave a resolute rebuff to the inventions of bourgeois propaganda, internal and external enemies of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, who are trying to slander the peace mission of the Soviet Army, which, as he stressed, "has together with the revolutionary forces of Afghanistan blocked the way to the sinister aggressive plans of U.S. imperialism and its Chinese accomplices."

This aid, the minister said, is in full conformity with the treaty of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan of December 5, 1978, and the UN Charter. The presence of the limited contingent of the Soviet troops here, said M. Rafia, in no way contradicts Afghanistan's national interests. The defense minister stressed that it is precisely "U.S. imperialism, its Chinese accomplices and their minions, who are responsible for undermining the cause of peace in the region."

The revolutionary Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, M. Rafia, said in conclusion, are ready to give a rebuff to any aggressive intrigues and conspiracies of the enemies of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, ensure peace and security in their country. The revolutionary Armed Forces of Afghanistan always come out for strengthening friendship and fraternity with the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union and will not allow anybody to damage this friendship, the defense minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan said.

KABUL TELEVISION COMMENTARY SCORES U.S. INTERFERENCE

LD241449 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1325 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, 24 February (TASS)--Kabul Television has broadcast the following commentary:

As a result of action by the security services of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and party and public organizations, with the assistance of the population of Kabul, a large number of terrorists and bandits have been rendered harmless and more than 200 rifles, as well as handgrenades, explosive devices and ammunition, have been seized during the last 2 days. All the arms are of American, British, Pakistani and Chinese manufacture. In accordance with the plans drawn up by the CIA, the imperialist secret services and their stooges in Israel and Egypt wanted to frighten the inhabitants and to disrupt the life of the city by means of organizing pogroms, looting and arson.

The situation in the city returned to normal to a considerable degree yesterday. The security forces of the DRA are carrying out measures to insure order in the city, in which they are receiving voluntary and active assistance from the inhabitants of Kabul.

The enemies of Islam and the Afghan people have distributed inflammatory leaflets with the aims of disrupting the normal life of towns and villages and of fomenting fratricidal war, the commentary continues. They wish to turn Afghanistan into a torture-chamber of American imperialism and its stooges, that is the Chinese leaders and reactionary Pakistani circles.

The commentary stresses that the armed criminals captured in Kabul include many Pakistani agents as well as Robert Lee, an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The foreign spies trying to undermine our national security and enemies of the people will be punished for their actions. The revolutionary government will establish order and calm in the capital and throughout the country.

Our people know that with the uprising of 27 December the glorious April revolution entered a new phase of its development. Thousands of our fellow countrymen have been freed from the torture-chambers of the bloody spy-murder Amin. Security and democratic legality have been secured for the people and the crimes of Amin's fascist band have finally been put to an end. The national democratic revolution in our country has returned to its main course; but these democratic and revolutionary measures have given rise to spite among the internal counterrevolutionaries, world imperialism and regional reaction. U.S. President Carter has started an unprecedented campaign of slander against Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. He is playing various tunes on the concocted "Soviet military interference in the affairs of Afghanistan" theme.

Do not thousands of American military bases on somebody else's territory constitute interference in other countries' affairs? Is not the presence of American soldiers in Europe regarded as interference in the affairs of the European states? Is it not interference when the United States arms Israel against Muslim Arabs?

Apparently the American Carter is trying to play the part of "leader" of the Muslim world. Does not the United States protect Israel, this number one enemy of all Arabs? Is it not the case that Palestinians, children, women and old men, perish daily by American arms? It turns out that Carter, while wiping out Muslims, is simultaneously trying to present himself as "defender of the (?Muslims)" as is the case in our country.

How is one to view the CIA's interference in Afghanistan's affairs? Is not Brzezinski interfering directly in our internal affairs when he "inspects" the bandit camps and incites them against our country?

Carter is Islam's main enemy. All his anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan attacks are aimed at concealing the policy of war and aggression pursued by the United States, at undermining the process of international detente, to blacken the policy of peace, friendship and cooperation pursued in the international arena by the USSR and other socialist countries.

PRAVDA VOSTOKA: RASHIDOV SEES OFF INDIA-BOUND GROMYKO

LD221043 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 13 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Uztag report: "A.A. Gromyko's Departure From Tashkent"]

[Text] A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, left Tashkent for Delhi 12 February. He made a stopover here en route to India where he is headed on an official friendly visit.

A.A. Gromyko was seen off at Tashkent airport by Sh. R. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee, by members of the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee Bureau and by other officials.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON HENG SAMRIN VISIT TO USSR

Romanov Hosts Dinner

LD221045 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[LENTASSE report: "Guests of the People of Leningrad"]

[Excerpts] The delegation of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS] and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council [KPRC] headed by Heng Samrin, president of the KNUFNS Central Committee and president of the KPRC, is continuing its familiarization with Leningrad.

The Leningradskiy Obkom and the Leningrad Gorispolkom gave a dinner in honor of the KNUFNS and KPRC delegation, at which G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningradskiy Obkom, and Heng Samrin exchanged toasts.

Heng Samrin Cable

LD220959 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Text] To Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

To Comrade A.N. Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

On behalf of the delegation of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation and the People's Republic of Kampuchea People's Revolutionary Council and also on my own behalf, allow me to express profound and sincere gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government and all the Soviet people for the warm reception and cordial hospitality extended to our delegation.

I am convinced our delegation's visit to the USSR will serve cause for further strengthening and developing relations of fraternal friendship, militant solidarity and comprehensive cooperation, the consolidation of the socialist community and the improvement of the peoples' well-being.

Please accept, dear comrades, our revolutionary fraternal greetings.

[Signed] Heng Samrin, president of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation and president of the People's Republic of Kampuchea People's Revolutionary Council

MASHEROV ADDRESSES HUE RALLY DURING VIETNAM VISIT

LD220839 Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 2 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "Meeting of Fraternal Friendship"]

[Excerpts] Hanoi, 1 February--A Vietnamese-Soviet friendship meeting involving many thousands of people took place yesterday in the city of Hue, the center of Binh Tri Thien Province.

Addressing the meeting, P.M. Masherov conveyed fraternal greetings to the Vietnamese people from Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and from the whole Soviet people.

There is much in common, he said, between the fates of our peoples. Both have fought with self-sacrifice, courage and steadfastness against foreign oppressors and have suffered the impossibly heavy ravages, adversities and deprivations caused by war.

Your undying steadfastness and supreme courage in repelling the hostile aggressor fill us Soviet people with deep admiration. Unswervingly following the eternal behest of President Ho Chi Minh that "there is nothing more precious than independence and freedom," your people did not falter in the face of the barbarous American intervention, and young and old alike rose up in a holy war against the hated enemy.

Trained by the Vietnamese Communist Party the people defied death. Neither atrocities, nor bombs nor napalm destroyed their faith in the triumph of the just cause, in the triumph of socialism.

Our achievements on the path of creating a new life fill us with joy and admiration. We are fully confident that, consistently fulfilling the decisions of the historic Fourth Congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party, you will achieve great successes in socioeconomic transformations and in building a powerful and prosperous state, an outpost of peace and socialism in Southeast Asia.

We are happy to be among you in the days when both Vietnam and the Soviet land are celebrating widely and solemnly the 50th jubilee of the glorious Vietnamese Communist Party founded by Ho Chi Minh, the tried and tested vanguard of the working people of Vietnam and one of the militant detachments of the international communist and workers movement.

BRIEFS

VANINO WORKERS BACK FROM KAMPUCHEA--A group of Vanino dock workers has returned by air to Vanino after participating in an expedition of Soviet Far Eastern dock workers to Kampuchea. The expedition returned to Vladivostok yesterday from Kampuchea on the motorship Lyubov Orlova. One of the tasks of the Soviet dock workers in Kampuchea was to speed up the processing of Soviet ships in Kompong Som Port where they had arrived with cargo for the people of Kampuchea. Another task was to train specialists and dock workers of Kompong Som Port. [Khabarovsk Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Jan 80 OW]

AUSTRALIAN SHIP IN NAKHODKA--The Australian motorship Selwyn Range has dropped anchor in Nakhodka Bay. It delivered a large consignment of cargo in accordance with a bilateral agreement. This is the first visit to a primorye port by a ship of the Australian national shipping line. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 30 Jan 80 OW]

WESTERN EUROPE

VANCE TRIP FAILS TO PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS

LD221833 Moscow TASS in English 1714 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Text] London, February 22, TASS--U.S. Secretary of State Vance has ended his tour of Western Europe. The main objective of this trip was to pursuade the allies to support Washington's tough course aimed at curbing relations with the Soviet Union, at undermining detente. According to news agencies' and press reports, Vance's voyage did not produce the results on which the White House counted. A correspondent of the American NBC television network, commenting on the secretary of state's tour, said that the West Germans, Italians, and especially Frenchmen did not justify Washington's hopes. Vance admitted the existence of differences between the United States and its European partners, although he tried, as the British TIMES points out, to belittle the importance of these differences. The French newspaper LES ECHOS points out that the majority of the Europeans do not want Washington [to] dictate a line of behaviour which would sacrifice the results of detente. Vance undertook his trip to the countries of Western Europe after Washington's idea to hold a meeting of foreign ministers of major capitalist countries in Bonn was thwarted.

Wary Reception

LD221834 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Vance has completed his visit to West Europe. He attempted to obtain the support of his allies for Washington's present unpopular actions. But if he found attentive listeners in London, our observer comments, in Rome and Bonn Vance was heard calmly and his ideas for economic sanctions against the USSR and calls for a boycott of the Olympic games in Moscow were received extremely warily. And in Paris the secretary of state met with frank incomprehension.

On the eve of Vance's visit, U.S. Ambassador to France Hartman subjected some of the positions of the West European allies to sharp criticism. Speaking in the U.S. club among his own, so to speak, he called West Europe weak and its aspiration to conduct an independence policy absurd. But the ambassador's words, having been made public, have had the opposite effect.

Four-hour talks with French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet ended virtually without results. True, in a short interview with journalists Vance said that there were a number of coinciding views on certain problems, but at the same time he stressed a certain discord. In the secretary of state's opinion, these questions should be discussed anew at summit level.

In the common opinion of the entire progressive Paris press, Washington's latest attempt to exert pressure on its Western European allies has been a complete failure.

EUROPE FACES CHOICE OF DETENTE OR CONFRONTATION

ID222345 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Viktor Glazunov Commentary]

[Text] Writing in the New York TIMES, the American journalist James Reston points out that President Carter now looks confident and even high and mighty. However, at nights his aides are bothered by doubts in particular because of ever-growing mistrust of the U.S. foreign policy among the American NATO allies. Indeed, the dangerous zigzags in U.S. policy have considerably shaken the prestige of that country among its allies too and has made them doubt that Washington approaches world developments with balance and responsibility. But it was not doubts but alarm that compelled the American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to set out on a tour of four West European capitals unexpectedly. Of course, there has been no lack of stereotyped pledges of Atlantic solidarity, but far too often there have been statements that solidarity means not only the repetition of what is said and done in Washington. The awareness is growing that unconditional alinement with Washington threatens to damage the relaxation of tension between East and West, the relaxation to which as all have been declaring in one accord for all these years there is no reasonable alternative.

Not to discontinue the dialog with Moscow: This is how the general feeling could be described in Western Europe, official London excluded. Paris declares this quite definitely and other capitals in less definite terms but the main thing is that the prospect for returning to the times of confrontation is attractive for very few in Western Europe because the fruits of the relaxation in Europe are to tangible and beneficial to sacrifice them recklessly to U.S. claims of world domination.

The West German newspaper KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER writes that maybe by such claims President Carter can make his voters rejoice, but he abuses the patience of not only Moscow but also American allies. The West Europeans are now facing two roads leading in opposite directions. One is the road of relaxation, the other is the road of confrontation to which they are being forced by Washington. But on this road Western Europe may run the risk to become a nuclear hostage of the Pentagon if the implementation of the plan to deploy new American nuclear missiles is not stopped in time. It also risks to be drawn into an American venture somewhere in the Persian Gulf or other regions arbitrarily proclaimed a zone of American vital interest. So, there is the road of relaxation offering security and cooperation, and the road of confrontation full of dangers. The choice is not hard to make, provided one is guided by common sense and the interests of preserving peace.

EEC MINISTERS COUNCIL COMPLETES ROME SESSION

ID221645 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Session Ends"]

[Text] Rome, 20 February--A session of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities at the foreign-minister level has completed its work here. The session agenda included questions of East-West relations, examined a number of topical international problems, linked in particular with the situation in the Near and Middle East, and also the progress of preparations for the Madrid meeting of representatives of the states which participated in the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Speaking at a press conference Italian Foreign Minister A. Ruffini, who chaired the session, stated that its participants agreed that ending the dialog with the USSR is impermissible and expressed the wish to promote the success of the Madrid meeting.

Ruffini said that the ministers had not adopted any joint document and only "registered the coincidence of views" on certain problems. According to him one such problem was the situation in Afghanistan. The ministers advocated, he added, that Afghanistan be turned into a "neutral country," and he asserted that only via Afghanistan's neutralization can a way out of the current situation be found.

As it is noted here, there is no justification for the attempts of EEC ministers to assume the right to decide for a sovereign country what status it must have and what policy it must pursue. It is a question of the desire to continue one way or another the line of interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and of an attempt to conceal the true reasons for the emergence of the current Afghan situation.

Disagreement on Olympics, Afghanistan

LD221647 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent N. Paklin dispatch: "In an Atmosphere of Disagreement"]

[Text] Rome--A session of the Common Market Council of Ministers at the foreign-minister level has been held in the Italian capital.

A propaganda ballyhoo had been artificially fueled over this meeting of representatives of the nine states. Rightwing newspapers predicted that the "tough line" that the United States is foisting on its West European allies would prevail at it.

The predictions have by no means been vindicated in every respect. The foolhardy idea of boycotting the Moscow Olympics which continues to obsess the American administration despite the International Olympic Committee's clear and unambiguous decisions did not meet with understanding from most of the session participants. The issue, as the saying goes, was quietly dropped. The session participants also avoided discussing the question of "sanctions" against the USSR.

Substantial disagreement was also manifested at the session of the "Nine's" foreign ministers during the discussion of British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington's proposal, borrowed from across the ocean, for the so-called "neutralization" of Afghanistan. The illogicality of this proposal is obvious. As has been learned here, Lord Carrington's proposal was criticized by the representatives of France, Belgium and a number of other EEC countries. Eventually all that was left of it in the session's brief final document was a mention in an extremely general and vague form.

Another range of problems discussed by the Common Market foreign ministers in Rome related to the prospects of developing the relations between them on the one hand and a number of Southeast Asian, Latin American and Arab countries on the other. At the final press conference Italian Foreign Minister A. Ruffini, without going into details of the discussion, which was held behind closed doors, merely stressed the "Nine's" interest in developing the relations between West Europe and these states.

In his speech to journalists the Italian foreign minister also noted that the session participants intend to continue dialog with the Soviet Union in order to "salvage detente," and they view from this angle their participation in the preparations for the Madrid meeting.

Ruffini is now to make a kind of report on the session's work to U.S. Secretary of State Vance, who arrives in Rome Wednesday.

FRENCH INDIGNANT OVER U.S. AMBASSADOR'S CRITICISM

LD221330 Moscow TASS in English 1317 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Correspondent Yuriy Lopatin report: "High Handed Pronouncements by U.S. Diplomat"]

[Text] Paris, February 22, TASS--The Paris press indignantly writes today about the crude attacks on the foreign policy line of the French Government by U.S. Ambassador to France A. Hartman. The Washington's envoy clearly does not like [it] that France and a number of other West European countries refuse to follow blindly the U.S. administration, which embarked on the path of building up anti-Sovietism, aggravated international tensions and stepping up arms race. Speaking at the American Club here on the eve of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, the ambassador said that the stand of the West European states refusing to align themselves fully with Washington in connection with the developments in Afghanistan savours of neutralist follies. Speaking in a tone inadmissible for a diplomat, he called the West European nations to order and demanded that they should not forget in what camp they are. The ambassador literally reprimanded those of them, who had not joined in the boycott of the Olympic games declared by Washington and the economic sanctions against the Soviet Union taken overseas.

Touching upon Hartman's pronouncements, an official spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry expressed supposition that the ambassador "had struck a false note." But such an explanation suits the press little. As the forum internationale points out it is hard to believe that the U.S. ambassador to Paris could make such serious statements on the eve of the arrival of his chief without the latter's consent.

By his "sinewy" statement, the U.S. ambassador, the newspaper LES ECHOS writes, prepared the visit to Paris of the U.S. secretary of state. LE MATIN evalutes Hartman's irritated attacks as a fresh tactlessness by U.S. diplomacy in the long series of attempts at bringing pressure to bear on the West European partners, at high handedly interfering in their domestic life and politics.

Washington, February 22, TASS--The Washington POST correspondent, who accompanied U.S. Secretary Cyrus Vance to Western Europe, points out today that Hartman's speech has emphasised the 'enmity' mounting between the Carter administration and the government of President Giscard d'Estaing, after France's opposition made it necessary to cancel the meeting in Bonn planned between Vance and the foreign minister of the main partners of the United States in NATO. According to the correspondent, the statement by the ambassador, to which U.S. officials appointedly drew the attention of journalists is evidence of the fact that Washington is not above using "brass-knuckles" for expressing its viewpoint.

FRANCE, USSR HOLD TALKS ON NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

LD211730 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 21, TASS--The French delegation, led by General Secretary of the Supreme Council for Foreign Nuclear Politics de Commines stayed here on February 18-20. The delegation held consultations on questions of nuclear non-proliferation. Taking part in the consultations from the Soviet side were Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy Ivan Morozov, other officials. The consultations were businesslike and constructive.

ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FAIL TO FACE REAL PROBLEMS

LD230014 Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Mikhail Dobrov commentary]

[Text] The Christian Democratic [DC] congress ended in Rome on 21 February. Anyone who was expecting a lot from the congress has been disappointed. The DC congress, which lasted almost a week, ended virtually without results. No clear-cut decisions were made on any major problems, particularly on the party's strategy for the near future and on the question of the Italian Communist Party's [PCI] participation in governing the country. The only thing the delegates succeeded in doing was to elect the DC National Council, which has been given 20 days to summarize the proposed solutions to the party's problems submitted by representatives of party factions and to elect a new national secretary.

The attention of observers has been attracted by Zaccagnini's report. Elements of a realistic analysis of the Italian crisis were contained in the report, as well as recognition of the decisive contribution of communists to the defense of democracy in the dramatic period connected with the kidnaping and killing of Aldo Moro, not to mention their contribution to the revival of the country's economic and financial life. In addition, observers have pointed out that the report did not express a premature rejection of the idea of the formation of a government with PCI participation, which is in itself an important positive step. At the same time, the part of the report dealing with the period from 1976-1979 and with the collapse of the parliamentary majority unjustly attacked the PCI, while the DC responsibility for the torpedoing of national unity was discussed in a very vague and superficial manner. The desire of many delegates to at least leave open the dialog with the PCI elicited severe displeasure among the DC rightwingers and conservative representatives, who are convinced that the results of the latest parliamentary elections allegedly give the DC grounds for preserving its monopoly in the Italian Government without any cooperation with the PCI. However, the conservative groups were unable to impose their own views on the congress or to mobilize sufficient forces for a crusade against the PCI, although they did their level best to paralyze the initiative of the supporters of collaboration with the communists and to prevent the adoption of decisions truly corresponding with the national interests.

This policy was manifestly developed with due regard for the opinion of the United States and the West European Atlantic circles which followed the progress of the congress with great attention. Regarding the fundamental problem of Italian political life, that of the PCI's participation in government, the position of these circles remains unchanged: It is a categorical no. This veto was confirmed both on the eve of the congress during the secret visits to Washington by Piccoli and Galloni, and at the congress itself, through the mouthpiece of Helmut Kohl of the FRG who urged the Christian Democrats to reject all collaboration with the PCI. The speech by the leader of the FRG Christian Democrats constituted an overt attempt to apply pressure on the delegates.

All these circumstances gave the DC congress a certain complexion, but there was not only a clash between the supporters and opponents of various political programs or ideas, but also between groups which take account of national interests and factions which act as mouthpieces for others.

The DC congress turned its back on reality, and did not develop a program to solve the problems of running the country and ending the discrimination against the left. But as is noted in the first comments on the results of the DC congress, until a program of this kind is drawn up, the roots of Italy's political, social and economic instability will be preserved.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

LD240939 Moscow TASS in English 0904 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 24, TASS--The international commission for inquiry into the crimes committed by the former shah of Iran arrived here by a special U.N. plane. On the commission are five persons. As the PARS news agency reported, the commission is to consider materials on the former shah's crimes so that the Iranian Government could subsequently take legal action against the deposed monarch-criminal.

KHOMEYNI CITED ON HOSTAGES, MOJAHEDIN LEADER ON 'PEOPLE'S COUNCILS'

LD231620 Moscow TASS in English 1611 GMT 23 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 23, TASS--Ayatollah Khomeyni said today that the fate of the American hostages held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran will be decided by the Iranian parliament to be elected early in April. Before the election of the parliament the Islamic Revolutionary Council and President Bani-Sadr should undertake all possible efforts in order to achieve extradition of the shah, now staying in Panama and return of the wealth he plundered to Iran, Khomeyni stressed. He said that the date and conditions of the release of the hostages will depend on the parliament's decision.

Ayatollah Khomeyni said that we still demand extradition of the former shah to Iran and the people will not abandon this demand. The students who seized the nest of spies which is the American Embassy delivered a crushing blow by their revolutionary deed at American imperialism and our people is proud of this.

Ayatollah Khomeyni called on the Iranians, and in particular friends and relatives of those who perished in jails or under bullets of the shah's butchers, to send in their evidence which will be submitted to the international commission which arrived in Iran today to investigate the crimes of the former shah. These barbarous crimes, Khomeyni said, were committed by the shah with the support of the U.S. Government. The Iranian people will not stop the struggle against the fetid dynasty, the United States and its agents.

Each of us knows, the ayatollah said, that the hands of the former shah--as well as of his father who placed Iran in full dependence on America--are in the blood of the executed and tortured fighters for Iran's freedom and independence.

Mass meetings of members and supporters of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq organisation which took an active part in the struggle against the shah regime were held in many Iranian cities. Masud Radjawi, the organisation's leader, addressed tens of thousands of supporters who gathered in the Tehran University campus. He urged to set up really people's councils as the basis of Iran's new republican system, pointing to the need to step up the struggle against imperialism.

According to the newspaper SOBH-E AZADEGAN, meetings and demonstrations of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq organisation in Tehran and many other cities ended in bloody clashes between their participants and the extremists from the so-called Hezb-e Allah organisation. Hundreds of people were injured in the clashes.

In connection with these incidents, Iran's President Bani-Sadr addressed the people over Radio Tehran today. He said that at this crucial period in the country's history clashes and disorders in cities damage the cause of the revolution.

The local press points out that the meetings and demonstrations of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq organisation have been held with authorities' permission.

NEW ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED IN IRANIAN CITIES

LD231548 Moscow TASS in English 1511 GMT 23 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 23, TASS--Mass meetings and demonstrations under anti-American and anti-imperialist slogans were held in the past two days in Tehran, Tabriz, Rasht, Gorgan and many other Iranian cities.

Thousands of Iranians took part in an anti-American dmonstration at the U.S. Embassy building, the biggest in the past several weeks. Representatives of the Iranian students who are controlling the embassy told the demonstrators that Iran's people has firmly decided to achieve the shah's extradition and return of the wealth he plundered, to make him answer for his crimes.

Mass anti-American demonstrations are being held on the eve of the arrival in Iran of the international commission set up under the U.N. auspices to investigate the crimes of American imperialism during the shah's rule. The international commission, which includes representatives of Algeria, Venezuela, Syria, France and Sri Lanka, is expected to arrive in Tehran today.

IRANIAN UN REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON HOSTAGE SITUATION

LD250728 Moscow TASS in English 0719 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] New York, February 25, TASS--The Iranian Government is deeply concerned with a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the U.S.-Iranian relations, but it is convinced that this can be achieved only by meeting the just demands of the Iranian people, said Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Organization Mansur Farhang speaking in the programme of the U.S. CBS television company. He pointed out that the establishment of an international U.N. commission for investigation into Iran's grievances is an important step on this way. We expect, Farhang said, that the commission will fairly assess the findings of the investigation, draw the conclusion that the former shah is a criminal and recognize as legitimate and well-founded our demands of his extradition and return of the wealth plundered by him. We also want that the real character of relations between the USA and the shah's Iran be exposed and the role be brought to light, which the United States played in bolstering the shah's regime, when cruelty and corruption reigned in the country.

The Iranian permanent representative pointed out that if the United States is really and sincerely interested in a just settlement of the crisis, it must submit to the U.N. commission all documentary evidence at its disposal concerning relations between the USA and Iran in the course of the shah's 25-year rule.

WREATHS LAID AT GRAVES OF SOVIET TROOPS IN IRAN

LD241012 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1751 GMT 23 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Moscow, 23 February (TASS)--On the occasion of the 62d anniversary of Soviet Army and Navy Day, public meetings, wreath-laying ceremonies and receptions at USSR embassies have been held in various countries.

In the Iranian town of Qazvin wreaths were laid on the graves of Soviet troops who fell in the struggle against fascism in the years of the Great Patriotic War. Representatives of the Iranian military command were present at the wreath-laying.

MCGIFFERT'S MISSION TO CAIRO BOOSTS ISRAEL

LD250016 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Correspondent Nikolay Zaborin dispatch]

[Text] Cairo, February 24, TASS--Assistant Secretary of Defence of the United States McGiffert ended his talks with the Egyptian military leadership in Cairo today. McGiffert met with Vice President Nubarak, Defence Minister K. Hasan 'Ali, and several other Egyptian officials. Central on the agenda of the talks were questions of deliveries to Egypt of new consignments of modern American weapons, the cost of which will amount to 5 billion dollars in the coming five years. Egypt's shopping list includes F-16 aircraft, M-60 tanks, some types of missiles and various electronic equipment.

Observers draw attention to the fact that the current visit by McGiffert in the course of which he also visited Israel is taking place in the conditions of the continuing process of "normalization" of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Contrary to the promises of the Camp David participants, the Egyptian-Israeli political rapprochement is accompanied not by the lessening of the military tension in the region but, on the contrary, by the intensive expansion of the arsenals of the two American allies.

The increase of the Pentagon's military aid to Cairo in no way means that Egypt will be placed on an equal footing with Israel in a new American-Egyptian-Israeli Middle East alliance. This is seen, in particular, from McGiffert's statement who [as received] confirmed at a press conference in Cairo yesterday that the deliveries of American weapons to Egypt will not change the "military balance" in the region, in other words, will not pose danger to Tel Aviv. The same point is stressed by the newspaper Jerusalem POST. Its military correspondent points out that many Israeli leaders--including Defence Minister Weizman--believe that modernization of the Egyptian Armed Forces within certain limits fully corresponds to Israel's interests since this will enhance Egypt's dependence on America and make it more yielding in questions of foreign policy.

ANNIVERSARY OF BAHRAINI LIBERATION FRONT CELEBRATED IN MOSCOW

LD171200 Moscow in Arabic to North Africa 2100 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Today at the University of Friendship of Peoples the (?25th) anniversary of the setting up of the national liberation front in Bahrain was celebrated. The celebration was organized by Bahraini students and was attended by their Soviet comrades and representatives of the Arab community and the university administration. Representatives of the front who spoke at the celebration thanked the USSR for its assistance in the preparation of skilled cadres for Arab countries.

BREZHNEV ELECTION SPEECH TO BAUMANSKIY OKRUG

LD221826 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1441 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Speech by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at meeting of electors of the Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow--live]

[Text] Esteemed comrades, dear Muscovites! I am very glad indeed to meet you, inhabitants of the capital, electorate of the Bauman Constituency and, I would add, my old friends. [applause] It is nice to know that you are approaching the elections with great achievements. Many thousands of workers from your rayon as well as from other rayons of the capital have already fulfilled their 5-year plans. Hundreds of thousands of Muscovites have pledged to fulfill theirs by the 110th birth anniversary of Vladimir Ilich Lenin. From the bottom of my heart I wish you success, friends. [applause]

Our country and all Soviet republics are welcoming the Lenin jubilee with a new upsurge in the socialist competition and nationwide creativity. And, as always, at the forefront is Moscow, the initiator of many undertakings, the Hero City, the toiling city, the creative city. [applause]

The present elections are being held on the boundary between 2 decades. The 1970's have receded into the past, and a new decade is coming in. Each of us is probably pondering what the character of the 1980's will be, what this decade will bring with it and how the destinies of our people and the destinies of peoples and states will take shape. The future, of course, always contains surprises and turns of events that are difficult to predict. Nevertheless, we communists believe, and not only believe, we are convinced and we know, that the 1980's will be years of new successes in communist construction. [applause] They will be years of a strengthening and developing of world socialism and new progress in the cause of the struggle to secure lasting peace. [applause]

This confidence is based on the analysis of the results of our own and world development and of the leading trends in economics, social relations and politics. What is characteristic of the 1970's from this point of view? It is a fact that throughout the past decade the economic and scientific-technical potential of our homeland and the capabilities of industry and agriculture continued to grow. This enabled the people's standard of living to be considerably raised, and this has been and remains the main aim of all our economic activity.

In the 1970's real per capita incomes increased by 50 percent. Over 108 million people improved their housing conditions, and this, comrades, is over 40 percent of the population of our country. [applause]

The defense might of the Soviet Union is also being maintained at the necessary level. Today, on the eve of the Soviet Army festival, the Central Committee can assure the Soviet people that we have everything necessary to rebuff any military provocations. [applause]

The peaceful future of Soviet power is insured and insured reliably. [applause]

The 35th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people over fascism is approaching and I am pleased to report to you that the party Central Committee and the country's Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on the further improvement of the material position of veterans of the armed forces and their families. [applause]

This is still further evidence of the constant concern of the party and the state for the participants in the Great Patriotic War. [applause]

In the 1970's we began to turn our whole economy toward intensive development, raising efficiency and quality, emphasizing the final results of economic activity.

We must continue and complete this most important matter which is the pivotal aspect of the party's economic strategy. At the November Central Committee Plenum the results of national economic development were discussed pointedly and critically. As yet not all industries, not all enterprises are fulfilling the plan. Difficulties still exist with some foodstuffs and some industrial goods, housing and the organization of every day services. With a view to eliminating these shortcomings and improving the state of affairs, the plenum recognized the necessity of implementing the economic policy of the party with still greater insistence and energy. The road to this lies in raising the level of managing all links, in improving the economic mechanism, raising responsibility and strengthening discipline at every workplace and at every work sector.

Much depends on the work of the central departments. This is why the plenum made higher demands upon them. However, local initiative is of no less significance; after all there simply does not exist a single prescription for all the different branches of the economy and all areas of this enormous country. One thing is clear: Wherever people sit idly awaiting instructions from above on every matter success is not likely. On the other hand, if people tackle their business courageously, give free rein to initiative and follow businesslike initiatives, success is assured.

Our country is vast and beautiful, comrades. We are accomplishing enormous deeds. And today, on the threshold of the 1980's when preparations for the 26th party congress are underway, we have every reason to look calmly and with assurance to the future. [applause]

As in the past our course is one of peaceful creation, of further transforming the country's boundless expanses and of multiplying the Soviet people's material and spiritual riches. No one will divert us from this course. [applause]

Of course, the party approaches the economic tasks from broad social positions, seeing the economy inseparably linked with the entire system of social relations. What was the main tendency for the development of these relations in the 1970's?

I think the main thing was the further consolidation of the unity and cohesion of Soviet society. [applause] I have in mind ideological-political cohesion. It is expressed in the very close union of the party and the people, in the firmness of the bloc of Communists and nonparty members and in the nationwide approval of the election platform of our party, the platform set forth in the decisions of the party congresses and the plena of the Central Committee.

I also have in mind social cohesion. It is expressed in the indissoluble alliance of the working class, the peasantry and the intelligentsia, in the community of the fundamental interests of all social groups and sections and in the gradual elimination of existing substantial differences between town and countryside and between mental and physical work.

I have in mind, finally, the cohesion of the nations and ethnic groups of our country. It is expressed in the close intertwining and fusion of Soviet patriotism and internationalism and in the creation of a unified all-union national economic complex and in the beneficial mutual penetration of national cultures.

I would like to single out especially the immense role which was and is being played in these processes by the RSFSR. Its contribution to the creation of equal relations between all peoples of our homeland and to the voluntary union of the Soviet Republics is truly invaluable. [applause] Cohesion and the unity of society is a unique asset of socialism, our priceless, invincible strength. Of course, the imperialists, like we, have missiles. They, like we, have quite a few natural resources. They also have talented scientists, engineers and cultural figures. But they do not have and cannot have a united society. Let our enemies recall the lessons of history and let them know that the unity of Soviet people manifests itself with particular strength precisely when attempts are made to talk to us in the language of threats. [applause]

The cohesion of the Soviet people is a reliable foundation for the might of our socialist state. In the 1970's Soviet statehood and its economic, social and political foundations became even stronger. Socialist democracy is being deepened. A new Constitution has been adopted, a Constitution of advanced, mature socialism. The renewal of legislation is in full swing. In the past decade there has been a noticable increase in the activity of the soviets. The immense potential which they possess has become even more visible. This activity provides the initiative for the resolution of many economic and cultural issues, as well as for service to the population and the production of consumer goods. This activity is the unremitting and exacting monitoring of the work of the administrative organs and of all enterprises and organizations. It is also the constant expansion and deepening of links between the soviets and the popular masses, the fulfillment of the mandate of the electorate. I believe that the work of the new RSFSR Supreme Soviet and all union and autonomous republics will also follow precisely this course. [applause] At these elections, as you know, the whole system of local soviets of people's deputies is also being shaped. It is the party's view that their role must continue to grow unswervingly. This applies above all to kray and oblast soviets. It is necessary that they act as the main force in the comprehensive economic and social development of their territory. Their material possibilities must be tied even more closely to the results of the performance of enterprises. The soviets' control over the fulfillment of plans, over the strict observance of Soviet laws must become considerably tougher. As chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, I can report that we plan to anchor the basic plenary powers of kray, oblast and okrug soviets in law. A draft law of this kind will be submitted for consideration during the next session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The soviets today comprise a great number of activists, millions of deputies and officials of the apparatus. On their principle-mindedness and demanding attitude, and on their concern for people, the working man judges what soviet power is. The strength of the soviets is not only in their mass character, it is defined above all by the work of each individual and I stress, each deputy and each official. Office and duty [dolzhnost i dolg] are words with the same root. It is necessary to always be aware of one's duty to the people--be it party, official or human duty. Without unflinching fulfillment of this duty, without knowing how to link up words and deeds there cannot be a true party and soviet worker.

Great diligence and discipline, as well as an exacting attitude toward oneself and in incorruptible honesty are the foundation of the Soviet worker's good reputation. One must confirm this reputation throughout one's life and through one's life.

The prestige of the worker, regardless of his position, does not come from outside. It is achieved through personal efforts, daily work and genuine deeds. This is the only way to achieve the respect of the people. [applause]

For the Soviet deputy and statesman there is nothing and there cannot be anything more important than this. [applause]

Comrades, allow me to dwell on certain matters of foreign policy and of the present international situation.

First of all, it is necessary to stress that the past decade has been marked by the further development and enrichment of cooperation among the countries of the socialist community. This cooperation is a powerful impetus for the development of each of the fraternal countries. It is also our common guarantee of confident progress in this complicated and unstable time.

The strength of the alliance of the fraternal countries and the strength of socialist internationalism were especially convincingly shown in the powerful support given to the people of Vietnam in their struggle against the American and later the Chinese aggressors. This is how it will be in future also, if anyone should again consider encroaching on the peace and security of that heroic country. [applause]

Our solidarity and support are also on the side of the peoples of Laos and Kampuchea who in their long struggle won the right to a new life.

One of the basic factors in international life is the peace policy conducted by the countries of the socialist community, their joint struggle for detente and for reducing the threat of a world nuclear missile war. This struggle is now the chief guarantee of the peaceful future of mankind. Virtually all the most important decisions in the sphere of strengthening peace and curbing the arms race made during the past decade at international forums, as well as the most important talks on these questions, are the result of the initiatives of the socialist countries. Their concrete proposals on questions of disarmament and international cooperation are an extensive, far-seeing and realistic program of insuring peace in our time. We shall struggle for its implementation steadfastly and tirelessly. [applause]

Now, when the forces of imperialism have begun counter-offensive against detente, peace and the rights of the peoples the unity of action of the socialist countries in defense of these very great values is more important than ever. Our countries will, I am certain, carry out this historic task in a worthy fashion. [applause]

The strength of our foreign policy lies in the fact that it accords with the vital interests of the socialist countries and also with the vast majority of the world's population, and above all with the peoples who have been liberated from the colonial yoke and are engaged in the difficult business of constructing a new, independent life. They, no less than the countries of socialism, need lasting peace, a strict respect for the sovereignty of states and the rights of peoples and truly equal international relations. It is precisely on such a basis that our friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with many dozens of states in Asia, Africa and Latin America are developing, whether these relations are with great India or tiny Benin, republican Algeria of monarchist Jordan, neighboring Turkey or remote Brazil. We value relations with all these states and respect their rights. We do not covet their wealth and we do not seek military bases in these places. We value the closeness of our positions on many international issues, but we do not attempt to dictate policies to them.

The USSR has made a considerable contribution to the revival of the economy, to cultural construction and to the defense of certain countries, and we are proud of this. Loyal to Lenin's behests, we are always on the side of peoples defending their liberty and independence, and we never use our aid to put pressure on those to whom this aid is given.

All of this creates an atmosphere of respect, mutual respect, and trust in our relations for mutual benefit and for the good of universal peace. [applause]

I would like to note in particular the successful development of good relations with India. They accord with the interests of the peoples of both countries, the cause of peace in Asia and throughout the world. The recently adopted agreement on a joint space flight in the near future of a Soviet and Indian cosmonaut is, as it were, a symbol of our friendship. [applause] The government of Indira Gandhi accepted our proposal on this and we are pleased about it.

But the bellicose circles of imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism, do not find the strengthening of peace and the success of the liberation struggle of the peoples to their taste. Look at their response to the development of mutually advantageous contacts between the socialist countries and many capitalist countries and to the success of the all-European conference in Helsinki, to the victory of the revolutionary peoples of Angola and Ethiopia over the interventionists and the mercenaries of imperialism.

They responded in their own special way. They began to delay the talks on SALT II and then the ratification of this treaty. They encouraged As-Sadat's treachery when he split the front of Arab unity against the aggressor. They imposed on the NATO countries a long-term program of urgent intensification of armaments. They froze, and in a number of cases even broke off talks taking place on problems of disarmament.

Finally, they made the provocative decision to deploy in West Europe new U.S. missiles aimed at the USSR and its allies. It has become obvious that the present U.S. leadership is pursuing a policy of undermining detente and exacerbating the international situation. It is trying to dictate its will to the socialist states and other countries. Was this unexpected? Of course not. It was clear from the very outset that it would only be possible to reliably guarantee peace and detente by stubborn political struggle. Detente responds to the interests of the peoples. The need for it is understood by responsible, realistic politicians. However, there are major forces deployed against it which work overtly or covertly in capitalist countries to prepare for war, along with the militarists, the monopolies and their henchmen in the state apparatus and in the mass information media. As the opportunities for imperialism to dominate other countries and peoples are reduced, the reaction of its most aggressive and shortsighted representatives increases in fury. This aggressiveness can only be restrained by the might and the sensible policy of peaceloving states and the determination of peoples to foil the dangerous plans of the pretenders to world domination.

After the United States had imposed its missile plans on the countries of West Europe, it turned its eyes upon Asia and the Near East. It has assembled major naval forces along the shores of revolutionary Iran, allegedly to save a group of kidnapped diplomats. It then seized on what it thought to be a convenient pretext: the events in Afghanistan.

The malicious anti-Soviet ballyhoo that has been raised recently in the United States probably beats all previous records. It is, of course, only a pretext. Mr Carter and his associates are perfectly aware that no Russian intervention in Afghanistan has taken place. The USSR acted on the basis of the Soviet-Afghan friendship treaty. Insistent requests for help in defending the country from the outside incursions of counterrevolutionary forces were addressed to us by three successive Afghan governments. Washington also knows all about the intervention in Afghanistan from the territory of Pakistan since it was the Americans themselves who, together with the Chinese and others, directed that intervention, which has created a serious threat to the Afghan revolution, as well as to the security of our southern border. The United States knows that the USSR will withdraw its troops and military contingents from Afghanistan as soon as the reasons that prompted their presence there cease to apply, and the Afghan Government considers that presence to be no longer necessary.

The United States is loudly demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops; yet in fact it itself is doing all it can to postpone that possibility: It is continuing and increasing its interference in the affairs of Afghanistan.

I want to declare with the utmost definiteness that we shall be ready to begin withdrawing our troops as soon as there is a complete cessation of all forms of outside interference directed against the government and people of Afghanistan. [applause]

Let the United States, together with Afghanistan's neighbors guarantee that, and then the need for Soviet military aid will cease to apply. The Government of Afghanistan for its part, as is known, has clearly declared its intention to support relations of peace and friendship with all its neighbors, and in particular with Iran and Pakistan. We, of course, welcome Afghanistan's position. The U.S. leaders know that the Government of Afghanistan is manifesting complete respect for the religious beliefs of the population, and has freed clergymen imprisoned by Amin, and has officially placed Islam under the protection of the law. The attempts by the patrons of the Israeli aggressor and organizers of repressions against Iran to present themselves as defenders of Islam look fairly clumsy. This is why [Brezhnev interrupts his thought] Why has Washington thrown a worldwide fit of hysterics? What are the aims of spreading lies about the war of the Russians against the Afghan people, about the Soviet threat to Pakistan and Iran and so forth? The answer is clear. Washington simply needs a pretext to broaden its expansion in Asia and it stops at nothing to create it. Anti-Soviet hysteria was needed not only to ride the crest of the wave to somehow gain the upper hand in the presidential elections in the fall; the crux of the matter is that in the United States the intention has emerged to set up network of U.S. military bases in the Indian Ocean, in countries of the Middle and Near East, and in African countries. The United States would like to subject these countries to its hegemony and, without hindrance, to pump out their natural resources, while at the same time using their territories for its strategic designs against socialism and the national liberation movements. This is the essence of it all. However, the present-day colonizers run the risk of miscalculating. This is not the prewar period, and not even the 1950's.

Dozens of previously dependent countries have gained the experience of independent life and policymaking. Peoples have learned to better understand the game of imperialists and they know who are their friends and who are their enemies. In regions of the world such as West Europe or Japan people have learned from experience the advantages of calm, peaceful life and advantageous trade. They will not so easily renounce detente to suit U.S. plans for world domination.

On our side, we advocate, as before, the development of peaceful cooperation with these countries, with all people, including, despite everything the United States.

In Washington, they like to talk about the necessity of insuring the safety of U.S. oil supply routes. In a way this is understandable. But can this be achieved by turning the region of communications into a powder keg? It is obvious that the result would be opposite.

The adventurist doctrines of the new preachers of the policy from a position of strength are dangerous not only to a certain single country or a group of countries. They pose a threat to the peace and security of all states and peoples. To deal a rebuff to these evil designs is the duty of all those who understand peace and who value it dearly. [applause]

The Soviet Union is not to be intimidated by anyone! Our strength and capabilities are enormous. We and our allies will always be able to stand up for ourselves and give a rebuff to any sudden hostile attacks. [applause] And no one will succeed in provoking us. We oppose the doctrine of war hysteria and the feverish arms race with the doctrine of constant struggle for peace and security in the world. [applause] We are faithful to the peace program put forward by the 24th and 25th party congresses. Therefore, in the 1980's as in the 1970's, we support the strengthening, not the destruction of detente; advocate the reduction, not the building of armaments; seek rapprochement and mutual understanding between peoples, not artificial alienation and enmity. We hold the banner of our Leninist foreign policy confidently and high--the banner of peace, liberty and the independence of the peoples, the banner of social progress. [applause]

In conclusion, dear friends, permit me to express cordial gratitude to the labor collectives and to all the working people who put forward and supported my candidacy as deputy of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. Thank you for the kind words which have been spoken from this platform. [applause]

I look on the trust of the Communists and nonparty people as approval for the domestic and foreign policy of our glorious Leninist party, as a high assessment of the collective activities of the Central Committee and its Politburo. [applause]

I wish to assure you, comrades, that I shall try as before to justify your great trust. It is precisely for people, for their creative labor, their prosperity and spiritual growth, that communists live and strive. [applause]

It is for this that we Soviet people shall be voting. [prolonged applause]

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 22 February reports that: "Those taking part in the meeting greeted with stormy, prolonged applause Comrades Brezhnev, Grishin, Gromyko, Kirilenko, Kosygin, Pelshe, Suslov, Tikhonov, Ustinov, Chernenko, Gorbachev, Demichev, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Solomentsev, Kapitonov, Dolgikh, Zimyanin."]

PRAVDA REPORTS KUNAYEV ELECTION SPEECH

LD221151 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[TASS report under the rubric "Working People's Election Meetings" on 16 February meeting of voters of Bakanasskiy Electoral Okrug with D.A. Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee, in village of Bakanas, Balkhashskiy Rayon, Alma-Atinskaya Oblast: "To Consolidate and Multiply Successes: Voters' Meeting With K.A. Kunayev"; capitalized passages printed in boldface type]

[Excerpt] Warmly welcomed by those present, D.A. Kunayev made a speech. The true democratism of the Soviet system, the invincible unity of the party and the people and the monolithic cohesion of the mighty bloc of Communists and nonparty people, he said, are once again being displayed most convincingly at the meetings which voters are having in the republic with candidate deputies of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet and local soviets. [IZVESTIYA 17 February Morning Edition version, carried on page 2, adds here ... These meetings have pursued an interested, businesslike and frank discussion of the most topical issues of state significance, issues in which each labor collective and each voter feels his participation...]

All this evinces a sense of pride in the triumph of socialist democracy, which is enshrined particularly clearly in the soviets created by the genius of Vladimir Ilich Lenin and by the people's revolutionary creativity.

The speaker expressed very cordial gratitude to the working people's collectives which have once again granted him the high honor of being their candidate deputy of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet. The speeches which have been made at the meeting today, he pointed out, convincingly confirm the very deep devotion of the glorious working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the people's intelligentsia to the dear party's great cause and to the CPSU's wise policy which is confidently being implemented by the Soviet people under the proven leadership of the Leninist Central Committee, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally.

The trust shown in me and the warm words addressed to me, the candidate deputy continued, I fully ascribe to our dear party, practice the vitality and the incontestable advantages of mature socialism and the profound fruitfulness of the wise policy of the Leninist party, the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, outstanding politician and statesman of modern times.

This is why our republic's working people have named Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, as their first candidate deputy.

Leonid Ilich devotes all his political and state wisdom, the strength of his mind and heart, his rich experience and the energy and passion of a true Leninist-communist to the noble cause of communist building in our country and the struggle for just peace throughout the world.

The Kazakh people and all the working people of multinational Soviet Kazakhstan are wholeheartedly grateful to Leonid Ilich for his constant attention and his assistance to our republic, whose incontestable achievements over the past quarter-century are also inseparably linked with his name in the glorious affairs of the opened-up virgin lands and of our strong multisector industry and in scientific and cultural successes.

Thanks to the tireless concern of the party and the government the republic is developing confidently and dynamically within the country's unified national economic complex. Kazakhstan's has become a powerful industry and is growing rapidly under the active influence of scientific and technical progress and progressive experience. The republic's unique territorial-porduction complexes--Pavlodar-Ekibastuzskiy, Karagandainskiy, Karatau-Dzhambulskiy, Kustanayskiy, Mangyshlakskiy and others--are having a substantial impact on the whole union economy, confirming the correctness of the party's policy of accelerated development in the country's eastern regions.

The republic now produces in just 1 year five times as much industrial output as in all the prewar 5-year plans put together. The range of products is being extended and the quality improved. The best products with the Kazakhstan seal are known and valued highly in our country and far beyond it. The plan for the first 4 years of the 5-year plan was fulfilled successfully as regards the volume of output sales and the production of the majority of the most important types of output.

The scale of capital construction is greater than ever. More than 200 new enterprises and major production facilities and shops fitted with the latest equipment have been commissioned since the beginning of the 10th 5-Year Plan. They include the Pavlodar oil refinery, the Novo-Dzhambul phosphorus plant, the Zhezkentskiy mining and enriching combine, new capacities in power generation and at the Bogatyr opencut coal mine in Ekibastuz and many other projects.

Agriculture is developing successfully as a result of the consistent implementation of the CPSU's agrarian policy. The gross grain yield has increased 27 percent since the start of the 5-year plan. The past 4 years' plans for purchases of wheat, corn, grain, rice, potatoes and vegetables were overfulfilled. Production of sugar beets, cotton and fruit has increased.

Last year proved exceptionally good for Kazakhstan. It was the year of the Virgin Lands' 25th anniversary, when a record quantity of high-quality grain was produced and procured. The great victory of the repbulic's grain growers has been evaluated highly by the party and government, and Kazakhstan has been given the motherland's highest award--the Order of Lenin.

The candidate deputy described in detail the positive changes which have occurred since the previous elections to the republic Supreme Soviet and local soviets in the multifaceted life of the Kazakh SSR, Alma-Atinskaya Oblast and Balkhashskiy Rayon. Thus, for example, more than 2.5 million people in the republic have improved their housing conditions since the start of the 5-year plan. The material well-being of the people of Kazakhstan is improving steadily, as it is throughout the country. There has been a considerable increase in the number of trade enterprises and cultural, health and public education establishments for the population. One person in three in Kazakhstan is currently studying.

Since the beginning of the 10th 5-Year Plan approximately R4 billion of capital investments have been directed toward the comprehensive development of Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, which has made it possible to commission a number of major capacities at factories, plants and combines, to accelerate the modernization and building up of the republic's capital and to improve the architectural aspect of other populations points.

It is gratifying to see, the speaker said, that many labor collectives are constantly improving their indicators, improving the quality of work and output and setting the tone in socialist competition. The best representatives of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the people's intelligentsia are setting examples of creative labor. This can be seen in any sphere--industry, construction, agriculture, science and culture.

The speaker went on to dwell in detail on the problems which are to be resolved in the light of the high demands of the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's profound and principled speech at the plenum. In the concluding year of the 10th 5-Year Plan, proceeding from the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the 14th Kazakhstan CP Congress, the republic has been set tasks of exceptional importance.

The party directs people toward making all possible use of existing reserves and potential and enhancing production efficiency and work quality in every sector. It is important to note here a characteristic feature of this year, which is that the level reached in terms of its results will be the fulcrum or base for the 11th 5-Year Plan and for our society's further social development.

This year the republic is faced with increasing the annual volume of industrial production at least 5.7 percent, chiefly as the result of developing the sectors which determine technical progress. In doing so, no less than 65 percent of the increase must be secured through increased labor productivity.

It is necessary to insure further growth in the scale of production, to realize the big construction program and to commission major new capacities in every sector of the economy.

Chief emphasis, as before, is placed on the accelerated development of power generation, the fuel, chemical and oil industries and machine building. Here, the speaker emphasized, we are obliged to increase considerably the quantitative and qualitative indicators of all spheres of Kazakhstan industry, including consumer goods production.

Rural workers must fulfill a considerable volume of work. Our most important task in grain production is to consolidate the successes achieved and confidently develop them further. This means that this year it is necessary once again to give the motherland as much good-quality Kazakhstan grain, rice, industrial crops, vegetables and other agricultural produce as possible. We have to produce no less than 1.5 million tons of meat and more than 2.3 million tons of milk.

The fulfillment of these and other tasks will once again require coherence, ability and skill and the intensification of agricultural production concentration and specialization. It is important to secure a maximum reduction in the number of laggard farms. Under these conditions there is a sharp increase in the significance of the widest use of progressive experience and of the specific responsibility of science for the validity of recommendations and for their effectiveness in practice.

The speaker drew attention to the need to further bring irrigated land into active circulation. By making better use of the water of the Ili River, in particular, it is necessary to extend the Kerbulakskiy and Chingeldinskiy tracts, as well as really "saddling" the Akdalinskiy tract and turning it into the republic's great new rice granary. In addition, it is necessary to accelerate construction of the Bartogayskoye Reservoir with the Chilik-Chemolgan Canal--which will make it possible additionally to irrigate extensive areas of land and substantially increase the return from land already in use. The canal will also cross Alma-Ata city. Taking the special importance of this construction project into account, the Alma-Atinskiy Obkom should place it under unremitting, daily and--most importantly--effective control.

The candidate deputy emphasized the need for closer contacts between rural and urban workers, to eliminate absence of personal responsibility and any manifestations of dependence in patronal ties, and the importance of shifting to permanent and concrete forms of these ties. [paragraph continues]

This applies particularly to sovkhozes' and kolkhozes' relations with procurement and trading organizations. One would like to see as few middlemen and intermediate links here as possible, he said.

At the 12th Kazakhstan CP Central Committee Plenum, D.A. Kunayev continued, a number of republic departments and Alma-Ata enterprises were justly criticized for resolving unsatisfactorily the problem of work and output quality. The situation is changing for the better, but individual leaders pretend that the criticism does not apply to them but to someone else. It is quite impossible to go along with such a stand. It is to be supposed that we will find the strength to eliminate the existing shortcomings.

It is important everywhere to step up the construction of sociocultural and domestic projects, particularly children's preschool establishments, and to instill and constantly maintain full order in the working of transport, in housing and municipal services, in consumer services and in the trade and public catering systems--that is, in those spheres which affect the interests of every family and every person.

Whatever sphere of our life we take, D.A. Kunayev emphasized, we are obliged everywhere to evaluate critically what has been done, not to take excessive pride in what has been achieved, to be able to see the prospects clearly, to really value the trust of the party and the people and work creatively and with initiative and full efficiency.

As is known, the preparation for and holding of the elections is a review of the soviets' activities at every level. Their authority and influence are growing yearly. The multi-faceted activities of the organs of people's power rose to a qualitatively new level with the adoption of the new USSR Constitution. In the soviets millions of people pass through a school of management of the affairs of state and society. As V.I. Lenin said, "for the first time in the history of civilized societies the MASS of the population will rise to INDEPENDENT participation not only in polls and elections BUT ALSO IN EVERYDAY MANAGEMENT." Proceeding from Lenin's instructions, the party will continue doing everything to insure that the lofty principles of people's power are implemented everywhere, strictly and without ostentation or formalism.

In our country working people of all trades and ages take a very active part in the management of the affairs of state and society. The Komsomol and youth accomplish great deeds. In the fraternal union of our republics Kazakhstan is one of the youngest, for more than half its population is aged 30 or under. We will continue to rely still more strongly on our glorious youth in everything and to educate it in the spirit of the Leninist friendship of the peoples, Soviet patriotism and the readiness to fulfill any assignment of the motherland.

This election campaign is taking place in the concluding year of the 5-year plan, on whose basis the next, 11th 5-Year Plan will be built. It is the year of the 110th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. At the same time it is a year of active preparations for the 26th CPSU Congress.

We must, as the party urges, make 1980 a year of shock work, Lenin-style work. The upcoming 60th anniversary of the Kazakh SSR and the Kazakhstan CP also makes this incumbent on us.

Great deeds await the republic's working people in all areas of the economy, science and culture. We will construct still more well-appointed housing; extend the network of public health and education, trade and municipal and consumer services; develop physical culture, sport and tourism, and improve social security and nature and environmental conservation.

In mounting socialist competition still more widely and lifting people to shock labor, it is important to create a principled, businesslike atmosphere everywhere and to eradicate any manifestations alien to the Soviet way of life, fulfilling Lenin's demands that "we must struggle indefatigably against all bourgeois ideology, in whatever fasionable and splendid attire it may dress itself."

The Communist Party and our state of the whole people will continue to bear aloft the banner of social justice and of real human rights and freedoms, filling them with real substance which no slanderous fabrications can belittle. The Leninist party's entire creative activity has convincingly proved that we have had, now have and will have no interests higher than those of honest working people, the indissoluble fraternity of the Soviet peoples and lasting, irreversible peace throughout the world.

The republic's working people, like all Soviet people, actively support the wise domestic and foreign policy of the party and government aimed at further strengthening the socialist community and really easing tension.

The Soviet Union's new peace initiatives and practical steps have made a principled contribution to the cause of real detente. With its very profound realism and fidelity to the principles of justice and honesty the CPSU's Leninist foreign policy accords with the fundamental interests of all the world's peoples.

At the same time, while placing a high evaluation on our country's foreign policy successes, we must not forget the intrigues of world reaction, as L.I. Brezhnev directly pointed out in his replies to PRAVDA's correspondent.

As you know, the speaker said, the international climate has recently deteriorated greatly thanks to the endeavors of the White House administration and U.S. President Carter. By increasing the arms race and ascribing aggressive intentions to us American imperialism together with its satellites and the top Beijing leadership is trying its best to complicate the international situation to the utmost. Lies and slander, direct and indirect pressure, unprecedented blackmail and economic and other sanctions are being employed. Our "opponents" are seeking to dictate their terms even in a sphere such as sport. It is not hard to see that all this purposes one aim--to frighten us into submission, as it were, to distort the meaning and essence of our international aid to Afghanistan and to make us back down from our consistent and principled Leninist foreign policy course. Such calculations are in vain. They are doomed to failure, whoever their author may be.

No one can halt the onward march of history or divert us from the correct path of peace, detente, cooperation and mutual understanding among states.

Having thanked the voters once again for the trust shown in him, D.A. Kunayav said in conclusion:

The paramount task of you and me, comrades, is to continue augmenting the economic and defense might of the beloved motherland and the entire socialist community with our tireless creative labor in the name of the interests of building communism and consolidating peace throughout the world. The Kazakh people and all working people of multinational Soviet Kazakhstan, having closed their ranks still more tightly around the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, that loyal continuer of Lenin's great cause, will do everything to mark the concluding year of the 10th 5-Year Plan with new successes and to greet worthily our dear party's upcoming 26th congress.

COMMENTATOR NOTES SIGNIFICANCE OF SUPREME SOVIET ELECTIONS

LD241018 Moscow TASS in English 0955 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--TASS commentator Boris Prokhorov writes:

Today is the day of elections to the supreme soviets of the union and autonomous republics and to the local soviets of people's deputies. Polling stations have been functioning all over the Soviet Union since early in the morning. Millions of people are going to the polls. The ballot boxes are in the festively-decorated halls.

It is not by chance that the power which the working people established in this country in the October of 1917 is called soviet power. It is exactly through the soviet of all levels--from the Supreme Soviet down to a rural one--that the people in the USSR exercise the right gained by the great revolution to administer their country themselves.

Today Soviet people are to elect more than two million two hundred and fifty thousand deputies of the soviets. Only yesterday the number of deputies in the country was approximately 40,000 less than this number. Population of the country increased since the previous elections. New towns, settlements and urban districts have come into being. The number of soviets and deputies increases accordingly.

Addressing the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy District on February 22, Leonid Brezhnev. general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, among the achievements in the activities of the people's power bodies pointed also the constant expansion and deepening of the soviet's links with the masses of the people.

The links manifest themselves not only in most close contacts of the deputies with their constituents but also in the increase in the number of public activists at the soviets. It is significant that the number of public activists who work in various commissions set up by the soviets or in other forms participate in the activities of local state power bodies grows more rapidly than the number of deputies. Fifteen years ago there were, for example, about 20 million public activists at the soviets. Their number is now more than 30 million. Considering that the population of the USSR is 264.5 million, one can imagine how wide is Soviet people's participation in the administration of their country.

To the present elections the Soviet people has come united and concerted as never before, and rallied close round the leaders and the guiding force of Soviet society--the Communist Party. Leonid Brezhnev pointed out in his speech at the meeting with the voters last Friday that the main tendency in the social life of our country in the 1970s was the further strengthening of the unity and choesion of Soviet society.

This truth is confirmed by the entire course of the election campaign, by the initiative of many working collectives that adopted enhanced socialist pledges on the occasion of the elections and successfully implement them.

The Soviet people's unity manifested itself with a particular force during the pre-election meetings of the voters with the candidates nominated by them. Such meetings took place in recent weeks in all the electoral districts of the country. There is every reason to believe that the unity will find reflection in results of today's polling as well.

VOTING NEAR COMPLETION THROUGHOUT NATION

LD241850 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] Election news: By now, voting has been completed in Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Tadzhikistan, Tuvinskaya ASSR, Buryatskaya ASSR, Yakutskaya ASSR, Altayskiy Kray, Krasnoyarskiy Kray, Maritime Kray and Khabarovskiy Kray; Omskaya, Kemerovskaya, Novosibirskaya, Irkutskaya, Amurskaya, Chitinskaya, Sakhalinskaya, Magadanskaya and Kamchatkaskaya oblasts; Gorno-Altayskaya, Khakasskaya, Jewish autonomous oblasts; and in the Taymyskiy, Evenkiyskiy and Chukotskiy national okrugs. All candidates from the bloc of Communists and nonparty members were elected. By 1700, 99.91 percent had voted in Moscow; 99.85 percent in Moskovskaya Oblast; 99.09 percent in Leningradskaya Oblast. By 1500, more than 90 percent had voted in the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Moldavia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenia, all autonomous republics and okrugs.

PARIS RADIO ON BREZHNEV APPEARANCE AT POLLING STATION

LD241303 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Maybe the medical services could give us some details regarding Mr Brezhnev's state of health. In Moscow, Mr Brezhnev went to cast his vote, and everybody noticed that he walked slightly unsteadily. This is at least what the observers say. Our correspondent Gabriel Meretik reports:

[Meretik, by telephone] Last night we saw Mr Brezhnev vote at his polling station which is in Kutuzovskiy Prospect [words indistinct] where he lives. Last year he came with his wife and exchanged some words with journalists. This year, the CPSU General Secretary was literally carried by about 20 helpers who were with him. He did not react when we tried to speak to him and ask him some questions. It must be said that this poll comes at a time unforeseen by the Soviet people but nevertheless important, that of the situation in Afghanistan which is deteriorating considerably and which has allowed the Soviet leaders, Mr Brezhnev and also Mr Kosygin and Mr Gromyko, the minister of foreign affairs, to take stock of the international situation: A rather gloomy stock-taking but one which, it appears, corresponds a little with the state of health of the Soviet number one, whose health is considered by everybody in Moscow as particularly grave.

MOSCOW REPORTS LEADERS PRESENT TO HEAR KOSYGIN SPEECH

LD211851 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] A meeting was held today in Moscow in the USSR's Bolshoy Theater between representatives of the working people of Frunzenskiy Constituency of the capital and Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, candidate deputy to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The presidium of the meeting included Comrades Grishin, Tikhonov, Kuznetsov and Solomentsev; deputy chairmen of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers of the USSR; chairmen of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the country; representatives of party, administrative and public organizations; figures active in the sciences and culture; and production stalwarts. The participants in the meeting unanimously elected an honorary presidium comprising the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee headed by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin's career and his state and public activities were described by the candidate deputy's agent, Hero of Socialist Labor Comrade (Ozhina), a foreman at the Bolshevik confectionery factory. Warmly welcomed by those gathered, Comrade Kosygin delivered a speech. All-Union Radio and Central Television carried a relay from the USSR's Bolshoy Theater.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 17-22 FEBRUARY

LD180210/LD230247 [Editorial Report LD] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 17-22 February. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item:

17 February

Altaskiy Kray proposes to gather 100 poods per hectare in this year's harvest and to sell at least 4 million tons of grain to the state. There are 7.3 million hectares of arable land in the kray, of which 3 million is reclaimed virgin land. Due to sharp fluctuations in harvests, a drive is underway to raise land fertility and the efficiency of utilization. Subsoil tillage--a system in which the stubble is retained--has been introduced on 3.5-4 million hectares. Thanks to the use of chemicals and land improvement, last year, despite the vagaries of weather, nearly 3.5 million tons of grain was produced. The Altayskiy Kraykom and the krayispolkom have approved a special program to further improve seed farming and to transfer it onto an industrial footing. The Altaysortsemprom Association has been established, and this year the association's kolkhoz and sovkhoz should supply more than 60,000 tons of high-yield grain seed. (0100 GMT)

Kazakhstan in 1979 sold to the state 1,262 million poods of grain, a record amount. (0700 GMT)

18 February

Preparations for the spring planting have been completed in Orenburgskaya Oblast. The overhaul of farm machinery is progressing considerably faster than last year. This year the oblast has pledged to sell 3.85 million tons of grain to the state. (0205 GMT)

Field work has begun unusually early in Azerbaijan. Machine operators have taken hundreds of sowing teams into the fields in Sabirabadskiy Rayon, where alfalfa is being planted as a preliminary crop before the cotton is sown. Stock breeders in Azerbaijan often get four to five alfalfa harvests to supplement fodder supplies. (1400 GMT)

19 February

The farms in Uzbekistan, after a brief respite caused by heavy snowfalls and an atypical frost, are busy once again. Leaching is to be carried out on a little less than 1 million hectares. But in Khorezmskaya Oblast, where leaching is critical, only 15 percent of the plan has been fulfilled. Nearby in the Karakalpakskaya ASSR, where weather conditions are even more difficult, watering is proceeding four times as fast. (0100 GMT)

This spring hundreds of thousands of hectares will be planted with a new strain of hard spring wheat called Kharkov-46. Developed by Ukrainian scientists, the new strain is selected for high yield, increased protein, and resistance to weather and disease. Seeds from the new strain have been delivered to farms in the RSFSR and Kazakhstan. (0900 GMT)

21 February

Farmers of Oshskaya Oblast and the Chuy Valley in Kirgizia will start field work in about 10 days. All equipment is ready for work in the fields. Over 20,000 tractors and over 8,000 sowing machines will take part in sowing operations. (0100 GMT)

Agricultural aviation planes have gone out over the fields in Uzbekistan to top-dress winter crops with fertilizers. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Altayskiy Kray will be sowing new kinds of crops this spring. Scientists of the Altay Farming Research Institute will start using a new type of hard wheat called Altayka in the kray, as well as in Omskakaya Oblast in north Kazakhstan. In comparison with other Siberian types of hardy wheat, it gives a bigger harvest yield and excellent quality grain. (0100 GMT)

The machine operators of Saratovskaya Oblast have begun snow retention work on the third million hectares. The sovkhozes and kolkhozes of Ulyanovskaya Oblast have completed the preparation of spring grain and pulse seeds. (0500 GMT)

22 February

The farmers in Kurskaya Oblast have completed preparing their machinery for spring field work. As of today, some 9,000 tractors have been repaired. The farmers in Tadzhikistan have completed repair work on 90 percent of their tractors and 85 percent of their trucks and plows. About 95 percent of their cottonseed drills have also been repaired. (0600 GMT)

ECONOMIST OUTLINES GROWTH IN GRAIN HARVESTS

LD230050 Moscow World Service in English at 1100 GMT on 22 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Grain crop production is the main (?trend) of Soviet agriculture. The main crop is wheat. Due to poor weather last summer we harvested 56 million tons of grain crops less than in the previous season, which was a record one. This figure is approximately equal to 150 percent of Canada's harvest. Western economists allege in this connection that there is no progress in Soviet agriculture. Now what is the real state of affairs? We asked Yuriy (Buriyekov), a leading Soviet economist, to comment on that: [begin recording in English fading to English translation] The annual grain production has been rising in this country despite the comparatively low harvest last year, Yuriy (Buriyekov) is saying. Let's take the last 15 years. In 1966 through 1970 the average harvest was about 160 million tons. In the following 5-year period embracing 1971 through 1975 it was more than 180 million tons. And during the last 5-year period the average annual harvest was 209 million tons. Even last year when we had a severe drought. the grain harvest was considerably higher than in the early sixties. Now it should be taken into account that grain is also needed for fodder to develop stock farming. It is necessary to have one ton of grain per capita for a balanced agricultural production. So far we have not achieved this index, but everything is being done to achieve it. R170 billion, which is the equivalent of $230 billion, have been allocated for this purpose in this 5-year period. [end recording]

KAZAKHSTAN EXCEEDS TARGETS FOR MEAT DELIVERIES

AU211049 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1511 GMT 20 Feb 80 AU

[Summary] "Valikhanovskiy Rayon stockbreeders in Kokcheta vskaya Oblast have already twice exceeded the current-quarter targets for the general volume of cattle purchases. They were the first in the republic to attain this target. Compared with the corresponding period of 1979, the sales of this produce have increased more than 50 percent." The stockbreeders of Balkhashskiy Rayon, in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, have also prefulfilled the first-quarter plan for meat procurements. The pace of sales there is significantly higher than last year. The quarterly plan has also been prefulfilled in Kirovskiy Rayon, Taldy-Kurganskaya Oblast, in Korovskiy Rayon, Chimkentskaya Oblast, in Katan-Karagayskiy Rayon, Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, in Kurdayskiy Rayon. Dzhambulskaya Oblast, and in (Novobabukhinskiy rayon, Guryevskaya Oblast.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

'KIEV' SAILS TO MEDITERRANEAN FOR PATROL WORK

TA251038 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 25 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Soviet Kiev antisubmarine warfare aircraft carrier passed through the Bosporus on its way to the Mediterranean this morning. The Kiev first went to the Mediterranean on 18 July 1976. It is 275 meters long, 47 meters wide and weighs 38,000 tons when fully loaded. The Kiev has a crew of 2,500 including the air force units. It can carry 66 helicopters and Yak-36 VTOL aircraft. Its cruising speed is 32 knots.

The Kiev, which has undergone maintenance work, sailed to the Mediterranean for patrol work this morning accompanied by the Gromkiy, a Krival II class guided missile frigate 123 meters long.

REPORTAGE ON 62D ANNIVERSARY OF ARMY, NAVY

Batiskiy on Afghanistan Aid

LD222126 Moscow in English to North America 0030 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Text] On Saturday the Soviet people will observe the 62d anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. 23 February is the birthday of the Soviet Army and Navy. It is observed annually to commemorate the first victories of the Soviet Army over the invaders in 1918. Taking part in today's lakeidoscope is Marshal of the Soviet Army, Pavel Batiskiy. [Begin Batiskiy recording fading to announcer-read English translation]

Marshal Batiskiy says that this year the country will celebrate the 62d anniversary of its armed forces. They were formed on Vladimir Lenin's initiative to defend the world's first land of working people. In the twenties they routed the internal counterrevolutionaries and the invading troops. During World War II they defeated the troops of Nazi Germany. The Hitlerite army sustained more than three quarters of its casualties on the Eastern Front. That front was formed when Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

It is a pity that the ruling force and some imperialist powers tend to forget lessons of history, a pity that the policy of peace pursued by the Soviet Union and other socialist nations constantly meets with the resistance of the most outspoken reactionary forces of imperialism. These forces oppose the relaxation of world tension, spiral the arms race and inflate military budgets. The present leaders in China are in the wake of this aggressive policy of imperialist groups. In these conditions the Soviet Union cannot but adopt measures to defend itself from a possible act of aggression.

The Soviet Union spends as much on consolidating its defense potential as is necessary to ensure the inviolability of its borders and defend the socialist gains, together with the friendly countries. At present the Soviet Army and Navy are equipped with modern weaponry which is handled by trained men. The Soviet Armed forces fulfill their mission of upholding world peace and security in close cooperation with the armies of other socialist countries, and in the framwwork of the Warsaw Treaty Defense Organization.

The Western news media are doing their utmost to smear the Soviet Union over the sending to Afghanistan of a limited troop contingent at the Afghan Government's request. Interviewed by the Soviet national daily PRAVDA, President Leonid Brezhnev stressed that the sending of troops was fully in keeping with the Soviet-Afghan treaty of friendship, neighborly relations and cooperation. The step was taken, President Brezhnev said, in response to the request of Afghan leaders to help the Afghan people repel an act of aggression.

The continuing armed intervention and the conspiracy of external reactionary groups that has gone too far, have jeopardized the independence of Afghanistan. What is more, they are posing a threat of turning Afghanistan into an imperialist military springboard on the Soviet Union's southern borders. In these conditions the USSR could not but respond to the request of the Government of friendly Afghanistan. It has helped Afghanistan militarily and has in this way fulfilled its commitments.

Marshal Batitskiy concluded by saying that by their activity and by the very fact of their existence, the Soviet Armed Forces serve the cause of preventing a new world war; they maintain a high degree of combat readiness and are able to repel any aggression at once. [end recording]

Bagramyan: Current Military Role

AU231730 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 20 Feb 80 pp 1, 6 AU

[Interview especially given by Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan Bagramyan in Moscow, to APN correspondent Stepan Fedoseyev for the RABOTNICHESKO DELO daily; exact date of interview not given]

[Text] On the eve of the 62d anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces, Stepan Fedoseyev, APN correspondent, asked Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan Bagramyan to say something about the role and task of the Soviet Army and Navy in the present circumstances especially for the readers of the RABOTNICHESKO DELO daily:

The army has been and still is a force and instrument of armed struggle. Nevertheless, its role and function entirely depend upon the political system and state structure which has produced a given army, Marshal Bagramyan stated in the interview. The role and function of an army depend upon the policy conducted by the state in question. This is the whole essence of the problem.

The Soviet Armed Forces have been established as the army of the world's first socialist state, whose peace-loving policy is determined by its very essence. The role of our army logically stems from this fact as an army of peace. In times of war the Soviet Army defends on the battlefield a policy of peace, just as happened during the period of World War II. Having defeated the main troops of fascist Germany, the USSR Armed Forces decisively contributed to the victory over fascist Germany and imperialist Japan and rescued the peoples from fascist enslavement and presented them with the long-awaited peace. The peoples of Europe have been living and working for over 35 years under the conditions of this peace.

Throughout the postwar decades the Soviet Armed Forces by the very fact of their existence and with their power and high combat-readiness, represented a guarantee for the security and peaceful development of their fatherland and of the entire socialist community. They have stopped the aggressive intentions of imperialism and are, thus as a factor of peace contributing to preventing a new world war.

We witnessed how the imperialist forces, which throughout the postwar decades unleashed dozens of local wars and military conflicts, on several occasions brought the world to the dangerous brink of a great military conflagration. However, they met the power and resolve of the Soviet Union and of the other socialist countries and, thus, were forced to withdraw. Yes, we can say that it is now becoming increasingly more difficult for imperialism to act from the "position of strength" and to unleash wars with impunity.

Question: How do you view the present state of Soviet Armed Forces?

Answer: It is no secret whatsoever that the Soviet Union is improving its defense. [paragraph continues]

Today, Soviet science and technology have attained such a high standard that we are capable, within the shortest time, of creating all types of arms on which the aggressive forces of imperialism would like to rely.

Under the conditions of the constantly increasing rearmament of the United States and of their NATO allies, the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact member-countries cannot neglect their own security and the security of their allies. They are forced to take measures aimed at the consolidation of their defense. This is why the Soviet Armed Forces today are equipped with the best types of weapons and military technical equipment and with everything necessary for them to accomplish their duty. They are equipped with all necessary means for their daily needs, their military training and for the implementation of their military service tasks. The high general educational and cultural standards of Soviet youths, their political consciousness and excellent physical training are guarantees for the mastering of the complicated military service tasks which are entrusted to our army personnel. Moral-combat virtues, which have been tested on several occasions in fighting the enemy, are the unsurpassed characteristic trait of the Soviet soldiers.

Question: Referring to the power of the USSR Armed Forces and their ability to inflict a devastating blow against any aggressor, the American and NATO military leaders and some state leaders in those countries are trying to prove the "increase of military threat" from the Soviet Union and are trying to deny the defensive character of the Soviet military doctrine. What can you say on this subject?

Answer: Such an approach is by no means new. It does not withstand criticism. The Soviet military power is not designed for aggression but it has always served and is still serving the interests of defense. This stems from the peace-loving character of the foreign policy conducted by the Soviet Union and from the military doctrine of the Soviet state.

The essence of the Soviet military doctrine was quite unmistakably set forth by L.I. Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Defense Council whe he stated as follows in this connection: "... We are not striving for military superiority. We have never intended and do not intend to threaten any state or group of states whatsoever; our strategic doctine has a definitely defensive character." The basis of this doctrine is the defense of the socialist achievements, of the peaceful labor of the Soviet people, the defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Soviet state and of its allies. The defensive character of the Soviet military doctrine revealed itself particularly clearly during the period of World War II.

Following World War II the Soviet Union drastically reduced its army and proceeded toward the restoration of its destroyed national economy. However, the USSR's former allies in the anti-Hitlerite coalition made a 180 degree turn and began the "cold war". They went along the path of preparing for a nuclear war with the purpose of destroying the USSR and the other socialist countries. These intentions are still the main goal of the imperialists for which they are striving with all their efforts.

The whole world knows that the Soviet Union was not the initiator of the armaments race, that it did not begin the establishment of military blocs. The Soviet Union was forced to take defense measures in response to new provocations caused by the West. Furthermore, the USSR has never gone beyond the actual needs of its defense.

The Soviet Union has submitted several proposals to reduce the most dangerous armaments. The Soviet Union unilaterally reduced its armed forces four times. As was officially stated on several occasions, the Soviet Union is ready to reduce or to ban all armaments on the basis of mutual agreement with other states.

However, the settlement of this question not only depends upon us, and it does not depend upon us to the largest extent, since the other side has a tremendous military potential and is equipped with the most modern weapons.

Today, instead of conducting negotiations on a sensible, mutual basis as proposed by the Soviet Union, the United States and its NATO allies have opened a new round in the armaments race, and in the nuclear arms race above all. The United States and its NATO allies agreed to deploy new U.S. missiles in Western Europe and in addition to the U.S. military equipment that is already located on the West European territory as its main base [chelno bazirane], a territory which almost reaches the borders of the Soviet Union and of the other socialist countries. It is quite obvious that this is aimed at disturbing the relative balance of forces that established itself in Europe, as well as the balance between the United States and the USSR: It is obvious that an American military superiority is sought.

All this, naturally, forces the USSR to adopt the necessary, adequate measures and to maintain its armed forces at such a level as to be able reliably to resist any aggressor. If we would act otherwise our Soviet citizens and our friends abroad would not only fail to understand this, but would never forgive us for it.

Question: Certain people in the West, today, are trying to take advantage of the events connected with the support and assistance rendered by the Soviet Union to the peoples fighting for their freedom and independence.

Answer: The USSR has never made a secret of its policy toward the so-called: "Third World." We have rendered and are rendering support and assistance to the peoples who are struggling for freedom against colonialism and imperialist interference in their domestic affairs.

Many of these peoples, on the basis of their own experience, have convinced themselves that the USSR, in rendering such assistance, never had any claims on them and has no claims whatsoever and that the USSR never sought and does not seek any advantages for itself. The USSR has been and remains loyal to the principles of noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries and to its own contractual obligations.

The Soviet Union rendered assistance to the people of Afghanistan at the request of their government. In addressing the USSR the Afghan Government was relying upon the clear stipulations of the Soviet-Afghan friendship, cooperation, and good neighborliness treaty. The Government of Afghanistan was basing itself upon the right of every state to individual or collective self-defense in accordance with the UN Charter, a right which has been used by other states on more than one occasion.

The assistance rendered by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan does not have any other goals than the defense of that country against the foreign threat provoked by the imperialist interference in the domestic affairs of that country. At the same time we cannot help taking into account the fact that a real, and not an alleged, threat against the interests of the Soviet state's security was being created by the existing situation on its southern borders.

The limited contingents of Soviet troops are temporarily stationed in Afghanistan. As soon as the imperialist interference in the domestic affairs of that country stop, the reasons for the need for Soviet assistance will also be eliminated.

If by its noisy campaign about the Afghanistan events the United States should hope to influence the Soviet Union and its foreign policy, or should hope to achieve a military superiority, than this is a hopeless matter. [paragraph continues]

It is a well-known fact that similar attempts have suffered failure in the past and will fail again today.

Shabanov: Army, Navy History

LD231330 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 23 Feb 80 LD

[From the "I Serve the Soviet Union" Program]

[Text] Colonel General Engineer Vitaliy Mikhaylovich Shabanov, USSR deputy defense minister, is at the microphone: [Begin recording]

Among the notable dates which are close to the hearts of each Soviet person a worthy place is taken by 23 February, the birthday of the Soviet Army and Navy.

On this day our people festively celebrate its armed forces, the veterans of the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War, all those standing in the combat formation of defenders of the homeland, and the soldiers of the Soviet Army and Navy who have worthily inherited the glory and traditions of the older generations.

Founded by Vladimir Ilich Lenin and the Communist Party, the armed forces of the land of the soviets have fulfilled and are fulfilling their historic mission with honor: to reliably defend the revolutionary gains of the October Revolution and the great cause of building communism.

By their selfless service to the homeland and the shining ideals of communism, the men of the army and navy have earned the ardent love and gratitude of the peoples of our country and of the working people of the entire world.

The 62nd anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy is especially notable. It is being marked on the eve of a glorious jubilee--Vladimir Ilich Lenin's 110th birthday and the 35th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The founding of the mass and well-organized regular Red Army during the Civil War and the foreign military intervention was a really historic exploit of the Communist Party headed by Lenin. For the first time in history an army appeared which was radically different from all military organizations of the exploiter states, an army of a new type entirely put at the service of the working class and working peasantry and in defense of their interests.

The flame of the Civil War blazed for more than 3 years. During fierce battles the Red Army and Navy routed the hords of the White Guards and the repeated campaigns by imperialist aggressors. The first attempt by international imperialism to overwhelm the republic of the soviets by force of arms suffered complete failure. Having victoriously completed the Civil War and started peaceful socialist building, the Soviet people and the Communist Party did not forget the constant threat from imperialism. And although history allotted us little time to fully solve all questions of strengthening the army and navy, the feats of the prewar 5-year periods, as Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said, laid the foundations for victory won by our people in the Great Patriotic War.

This was a thorough harsh test for our people and for the Soviet state and in it the following question was solved: Will socialism be able to survive the onslaught of the shock forces of world imperialism? What was at stake was the destiny of the first socialist state in the world and the future of world civilization. The war started in conditions unfavorable for us but the Soviet people and its armed forces, led by the Communist Party, held out and contained the onslaught by the enemy's superior forces.

And they not only held out. The fascist army's crushing defeat near Moscow was the beginning of a radical turn in the course of the war. As a result of the brilliant victories of Soviet armies in 1942 and 1943 in the battles on the Volga, the Transcaucasus and near Kursk, a fundamental breakthrough in the course of the Great Patriotic War and the entire Second World War was achieved.

Having defended the freedom and independence of their fatherland, the Soviet Armed Forces fulfilled with honor their liberating mission. They saved many peoples of Europe and Asia from fascist slavery and delivered the whole of mankind from the threat of this slavery. During the adverse years of the war the Communist Party became a really fighting party. Almost 60 percent of its members were in the army and navy. The Great Patriotic War was a real people's war. The Soviet soldiers, without regard for their lives, fought to defend their socialist fatherland. More than 7 million people were awarded orders and medals for courage and bravery. More than 11,000 soldiers were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union. The mass heroism is evidence of the ideological conviction of Soviet soldiers and of their boundless devotion to the cause of the Great October Revolution.

The victory of the Soviet people and its armed forces in the Great Patriotic War became a historic milestone [rubezh] in the fate of all mankind and was a powerful accelerator of the world revolutionary process. This is vividly proved by the formation of the world system of socialism, the successes of the international communist and workers' movement and the collapse of the colonial system of imperialism.

Imperialism has not only been pressed [potesnen] but has also been deprived of the possibility of the destinies of peoples with impunity. For almost 35 years mankind has been free of global war and is living in conditions of peace won by the Soviet people.

The 62nd anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy is being marked in an atmosphere of immense patriotic upsurge and a high level of business and political activity of the Soviet people and its servicemen. This has been brought about by the decisions of the November 1979 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the 2d session of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the preparations for the 26th CPSU Congress.

In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev comprehensively revealed the scale of successes achieved in realizing the party's socioeconomic program. He also exposed existing reserves and shortcomings and determined the targets for our further progress along the road mapped out by the 25th CPSU Congress. Our party and people are united in their resolve to implement the draft plans and to reach new targets of building communism. For this we need peace, this is why the party is doing everything possible to curb the arms race and to prevent the threat of a new war.

At the junction of the seventies and eighties the international situation, as is known, has become noticeably more complicated. The blame for this, as Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said in his answers to the questions of a PRAVDA correspondent, lies with the imperialist forces, and first of all, with certain circles of the United States of America, with those who see in detente a hindrance to their aggressive designs to whip up militarist hysteria and to interfere in the internal affairs of other peoples. Ignoring the constructive Soviet proposals aimed at strengthening peace and security in Europe, the United States imposed on their NATO allies last December the decision to deploy in a number of Western European countries new nuclear missile devices of intermediate range. This will lead to a new spiral in the arms race and to intensification of the danger of war. President Carter took the decision to indefinitely postpone the Senate's examination of the SALT II treaty. Recently the ruling circles of the United States have been intensively whipping up hysteria around the events in Afghanistan.

Seeking to justify and disguise their line aimed at undermining relaxation of international tension, Washington and its assistants have recently mounted an unprecedented anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan campaign. The intensity [nakal] of this lying and hypocritical campaign betrays its organizers, whose plans to deprive Afghanistan of its independence and to turn it into an imperialist military bridgehead on our country's southern border, were foiled by the timely action and aid undertaken by the USSR at the request of the Afghan Government. Speculating on the events in Afghanistan, the U.S. leadership announced a number of measures to curtail Soviet-American links calculated to bring pressure on the Soviet Union and force it to renounce its international aid to peoples fighting for their liberation against imperialism and reaction.

All these actions by the United States and other NATO countries seriously undermine detente and constitute a direct challenge to the will of the peoples for peace. They are an attempt to disturb the existing balance of power.

The Soviet Government has repeatedly warned that if anyone seriously expects to conduct talks with the Soviet Union from a position of force, to dictate its conditions, they should give up these vain hopes. Our country will never permit that and we will not permit the NATO bloc to secure military superiority for itself. This would have irreparable consequences for the destinies of our homeland and the cause of socialism.

Faced with the build-up of NATO's military preparations the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries will duly look after their security. The Beijing leadership is playing the role of ally to the reactionary imperialist forces. The Beijing leaders, who have entered into an open alliance with imperialism, are making ever more malicious attacks on the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In these conditions, the Soviet Union is pursuing a consistent peace policy and is displaying a high level of vigilance in face of the intrigues of imperialism and the Maoists. The party and government are forced to take unceasing care of strengthening the country's defense and perfecting our armed forces. Thanks to the care of the party and the heroic work of the Soviet people, our armed forces have in the last few years undergone really revolutionary changes and are now at a qualitatively new stage of their development.

They have been staffed [ukomplektovany] with splendid personnel, equipped with the most up-to-date weapons and combat equipment. The art of war, the science of war and the theory and practice of training and educating troops have received further development. All this insures the further growth of the combat might of the army and navy.

At the present time strenuous combat training [boyevaya ucheba] is in progress in the armed forces. Servicemen of the army and navy are successfully solving great and responsible tasks, taking into account the complicated present international situation, and are seeking to raise even higher their vigilance and combat readiness, and to realize the instructions of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev on questions of strengthening the country's defense might.

The Soviet servicemen have the same thoughts and interests as their people. Like all Soviet people, the personnel of the valiant armed forces unanimously support the home and foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, approve the purposeful and fruitful activity of the CPSU Central Committee and Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. The leadership of the party, inseparably linked with the people, is an inexhaustible source of strength and invincibility for our armed forces. Closely rallied round the Communist Party and in combat cooperation with the armies of the Warsaw Treaty member countries, they will continue to vigilantly mount the guard of socialism and universal peace.

I wish you a happy Army and Navy day, dear comrades! [end recording]

Yepishev's 'Briefing Report'

LD150945 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "Briefing Report"]

[Text] Yesterday the Moscow Gorkom and the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate delivered a briefing report devoted to the 62d anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces for lecturers, propagandists, rapportuers, leaders of agitation collectives and political information groups and political workers of military units and establishments of the Moscow garrison.

The report was delivered by Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

NEW EDITION OF BOOK ON PARTY, ARMY RELEASED

LD111513 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 80 p 3 LD

[TASS report: "Devoted to the Soviet Army"]

[Text] A second, supplemented edition of the book "The Party and the Army" [Partiya i Armiya] has appeared. Collectively authored, it is devoted to the Soviet Army and to the decisive role of V.I. Lenin and the Communist Party in the creation, building and consolidation of a new, socialist-type army.

The book analyzes fundamental party decisions on military questions and exposes the reactionary essence of bourgeois and revisionist views perverting the principles of party leadership of the armed forces in a socialist society. The second edition contains an additional chapter headed "A Most Important Factor in Insuring Peace and the Peoples' Security."

The book was prepared for the press under the general editorship of Army General A.A. Yepishev. It is published by the Political Literature Publishing House.